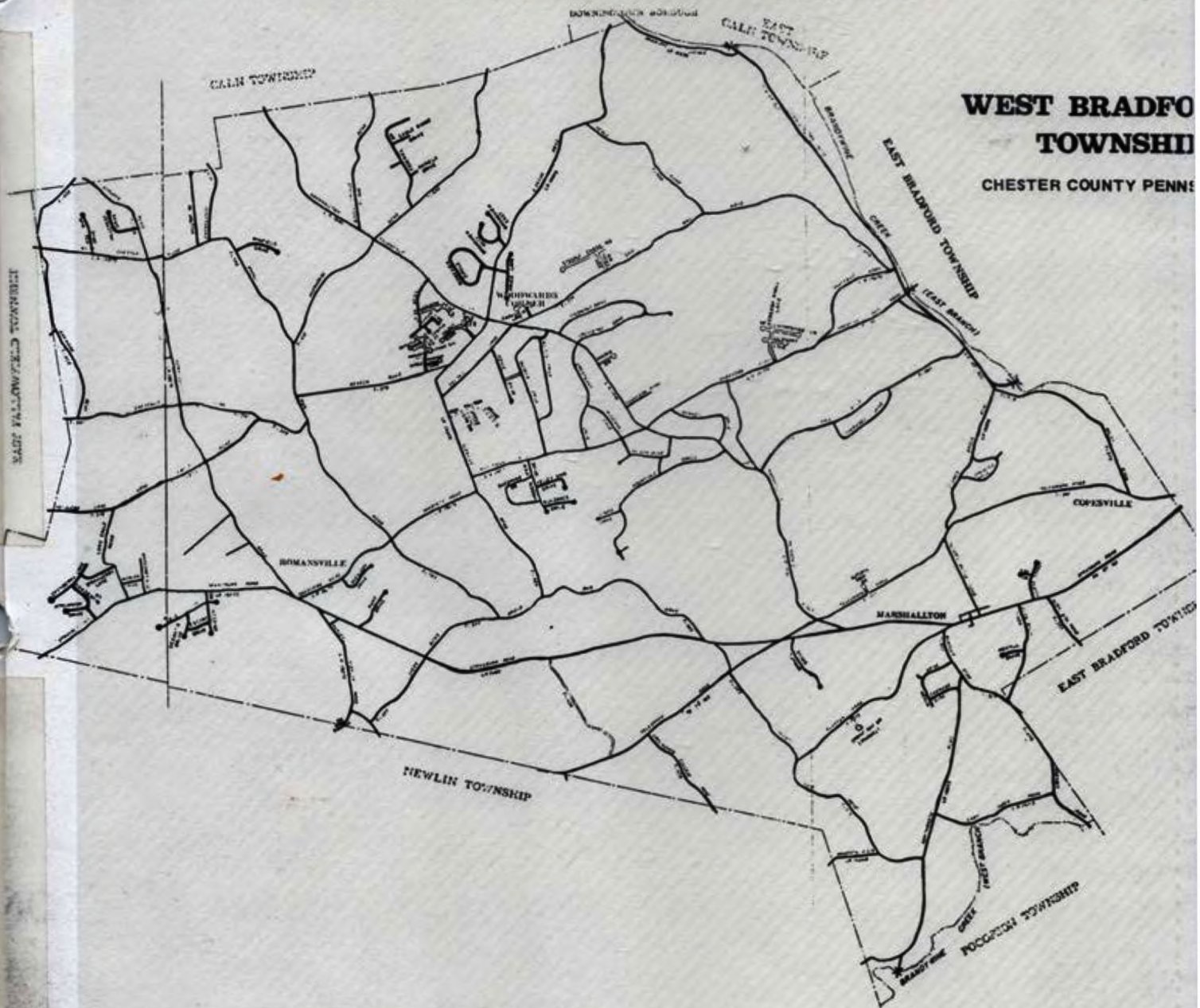


**WEST BRADFORD  
TOWNSHIP**  
CHESTER COUNTY PENN



INTERNET CATALOG 2015



3rd meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Attendees:

Peg Anderson  
Harry Perdue

Mairs

April 7 '75 -

Ann Widener, Jean Hagele & Peg A. met Bill Baldwin at the manufacturing Hall - His idea is to have a "museum" for the Twp etc.

We decided to call another

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

meeting for interested persons to discuss the various ideas & possibilities. (Apr. 24 at the W. B. Firhouse at 8<sup>00</sup>) Ann, Jean & Peg will call individuals and word can be passed around to organizations, such as Fire Co, Grange, Lions, etc.

Marine Insurance



## Organizations in the news

1975

# West Bradford to research old area houses

The West Bradford Historical Association will meet at 8 o'clock Wednesday night to discuss the project for the coming year.

All residents of West Bradford Township are welcome, and owners of old homes are especially urged to come. The project to be discussed is the listing of all homes in the township over 100 years old. Owners of these homes will be asked to research the history of their houses.

To assist in starting the project, persons who have done similar research and compiled histories will discuss how to go about such work for those at the meeting, which will be in Firehouse in Marshallton.

## West Bradford Day to feature Triathlon, displays

1975

West Bradford Township will open its Bicentennial celebration with the annual Triathlon Race sponsored by the Marshallton Inn and Marshallton Day sponsored by the township's Historical and Bicentennial Committee.

The event, planned for West Bradford residents, will begin about 11 Sunday morning. The race, open to the public, starts from the Inn at noon— by canoe, bicycle and on foot.

Food will be served during the Day by the West Bradford Fire Co.

Residents of Marshallton will have interesting items of by-gone days on their lawns and porches for strollers to admire. There will also be special exhibits at the old Bradford Meeting, the Methodist Church, the Blacksmith Shop, the carriage barn and the Boy Scout meeting room.

Township residents will also be demonstrating crafts and

skills. These will include pottery by Nancy Salamon, iron working by William Greene, sculpture and modeling in clay by Dorothy Montgomery and quilting by Jane Dilworth.

Also, painting by James Jacoby, wood carving by Russell Reis and painting by Nancy Russell Amariello. Any West Bradford resident is invited to come and display his or her work.

The Marshallton Art Gallery

will have a new exhibit.

West Bradford elementary school children are competing in making posters to advertise the Day. They will be on view throughout the township. The West Bradford Bicentennial and Historical Committee meets at the Firehouse in Marshallton every third Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. All township residents are invited to attend. Anyone interested may call Mrs. Albert Anderson, cochairman, at 486-0866.

## The Womens RECORD

Betsy Hungerford, Women's Editor



# Kickoff for Bicentennial Events Scheduled in West Bradford

1975

Downtown Marshallton is expected to be the hub of the East Branch Area, Sunday.

West Bradford Township Bicentennial and Historical Committee will kick off the festivities 10:30 a.m. with a day-long series of displays and demonstrations, according to Mrs. Albert Anderson and Mrs. Barbara Howard, co-chairman.

The second annual Marshallton Inn Triathlon will get underway 1

p.m. The event will include a biking, canoeing and walking race from Marshallton to Lenape Park and back. Proceeds will be given to Chester County Hospital.

"We call it a peddle, paddle and pace race," said George Mershon, owner of the inn and co-chairing the effort with Jack McFadden. "Participants will ride bicycles from the inn to Wawasett Bridge, Route 842; then they canoe to Lenape Park.

They will return to Wawasett Bridge on foot and finish the race on bikes at the inn," explained Mershon.

"There is a \$100 first prize for the best time," added Mershon. "About 25 other awards, ranging in value from \$30 to \$5, will also be given out."

The triathlon will be divided into three classes, based on obvious athletic ability. And, there will be a competitive division for children under 12.

"Last year, we had 75 entrants and 74 finished the race," continued Mershon. "And, the best time was one hour and four minutes."

Registration for the race will begin at 9 a.m. There will be a minimum donation of \$2. Canoes will be available for rent at \$5 each.

Demonstrations and displays will be shown along Strasburg Road. West Bradford artists who are expected to show their skills include: Nancy Russell Amoriello, oil paintings; William Green, metalwork; Dorothy Montgomery, sculpture and clay modeling; Cindy Wolf Marriott, silver jewelry; Jane Dilworth, quilting; James Jacoby, oils and watercolors; Russell Reis, woodcarving.

"Marshallton Methodist Church and the old Bradford Meeting House will be open to the public," claimed Mrs. Anderson. "Old carriages and farm equipment will be displayed in front of the old blacksmith shop. And, Marshallton residents have been asked to exhibit antique items they own on their front porches and lawns."

West Bradford Fire Co. will operate a snack bar. Posters promoting the event were created by West Bradford School students.

West Bradford Township Bicentennial and Historical Committee meets 8 p.m. every third Wednesday at the West Bradford Fire Co. The public is encouraged to attend.

## What and Where is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in this picture will win a year's subscription to the *East Branch Citizen*. If you already have a subscription, you may give it to a friend or relative. Call 269-1216 after 10 a.m. Friday. Readers may learn the identity of the photograph and the name of the winner by tuning in to WCHE, 1520 on your radio dial, 10:30 a.m. Friday.



MARSHALLTON DAY

October 5, 1975

Points of Interest

1. MARSHALLTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH built in 1891. From 11:00 to 12:15 services are open to the public. At 1:00 the Church will be open with an exhibit of altar pieces donated at it's opening.
2. COURTYARD OF THE INN:
  - a) Starting point for THE SECOND ANNUAL MARSHALLTON INN TRIATHALON.
  - b) Exhibits by local craftsmen and artists:
    - Jane Dilworth - Quilting
    - William G. Greene - Blacksmith
    - James Jacoby - Painting
    - Cindy Marriott - Silver Jewelry
    - Dorothy Montgomery - Clay Sculpture
    - Russell Reis - Wood Carving
    - Nancy Salamon - Pottery
  - c) Winning posters in the Marshallton Day Poster Contest.
3. THE MARSHALLTON INN built in 1793 and currently owned and operated by George Mershon.
4. THE WEST BRADFORD FIRE HOUSE where refreshments are being provided by the Womens' Auxiliary.
5. THE MARSHALTON GALLERY owned by Hannah Williamson, offering a group show including:
  - Bill Walsh - Painting and Drawing
  - Diane Philippoff - Textile Art
  - Charles Deshner - Silversmith
  - Bernard Felch - Sculpture
  - Susan Wilson - Ceramics
6. ANTIQUE CARRIAGES owned by Bill Baldwin.
7. THE BLACKSMITH SHOP built in the 18th century and currently an antique shop.
8. ANTIQUE FARM MACHINERY owned by Harry Perdue.
9. THE OLD LODGE HALL built in 1912 by the Order of Independent Americans and the meeting place of the Marshallton Grange for many years. The Boy Scouts currently occupy the ground floor.
10. THE BRADFROD MEETING HOUSE erected in 1765. Joe and Ruth Mattson, and Dorothy Perdue will be on hand as hosts, with Dorothy in authentic 19th century attire.
11. PAINTINGS by Nancy Amoriello exhibited outside her home.
12. The remains of THE CENTER HOUSE built as a public house in 1764 and operating as such until 1879. The Center House was so named because it was believed to be in the center of Chester County, which, at that time, included what is now Delaware County.



**TO THE CITIZENS  
OF WEST BRADFORD  
TOWNSHIP**

who are interested in  
their townships history  
are urged to attend a  
meeting for

**THE WEST BRADFORD  
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

to be held

**Thurs., April 14, 8:00 P.M.**

**at the Township Bldg.**

**1535 Poorhouse Road**

**Meeting 2nd Thursday of each Month**





Oct. 5 '75

Marshakton Day - in conjunction with the  
Triathlon Race at Marshakton Inn - 12<sup>00</sup>

Various interesting places open - & with display:

- Bradford <sup>Friends</sup> Meeting house

Sta

- Methodist Church

Back with old  
carriages

- Art Gallery

- Boy Scout Meeting Room

Neighbors will have <sup>old</sup> items of interest on their  
porches & yards.

W.B. Bicentennial & Historical Committee  
meets every 3rd Wed. eve. at the Firehouse  
in Marshakton. All residents invited.

Special plans to study the old homes, the  
historical events, and long-time families  
dwelling in Twp.

Barbara Howard

Peg Anderson



Nov. 17 -

Tsp Mtg. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues  
March

## agenda meeting Feb. 18 1976

Review old Business, minutes etc.

marigolds - Sale: <sup>Ideas for getting them</sup> around. 5 people put

W.B. Day in Oct. ? - ask Sups for Resolution  
open Taurier guest rooms? - <sup>in</sup> Sell them.

New: other activities for residents:

Take part in Parades etc.

Help guide or lost info. areas.

meeting or Hist. Soc - like a Party. <sup>apr.</sup> 21

Plan Harry's Trip. <sup>apr. 21 at Hist. Soc.</sup>

77

work on map

contact old house owners

Meeting

Shivers - re schools



March 17, 1976

Seeds - ordered. Linnier come.  
W.B. marigolds to sell & encourage  
everyone to plant in front, along rds etc.

April 21 - Meeting at Hist. Society

Suggested to send invitations - each of us send  
several from master list - mimeograph?

Apr. 21

- Harrods  
- Ann Widen  
- V.B. Bodley

- Displays  
- Refresh

May 2 "W.C. Super Sun."  
Parade. P.A. will sign up.

W.G.'s Wagon - Speakers, - Dr. Perdue & Mr. Watson

John Beck Bodley - H. Perdue  
Numphrey Marshall - S. Mont-  
gomery

Attending:

Ann Widen

Marg Kelly

Emily Heraw

Kenneth Trimble

Dr. & Harry Perdue

Dr. & Sydney Montgomery

Peg Anderson



WEST BRADFORD NIGHT

AT THE CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WEST CHESTER, PA.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

APRIL 21, 1976

7 to 9 P.M.

EXHIBIT OF MATERIALS RELATING TO WEST BRADFORD

SLIDES AND TALK RE: HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP

RESIDENTS URGED TO BRING ANY ARTICLES, PAPERS, MAPS, ARTIFACTS, PICTURES,  
ETC. RELATING TO WEST BRADFORD TO SHARE FOR THE EVENING

"WEST BRADFORD" MARIGOLD SEEDS WILL BE AVAILABLE!

FEE: \$1.00 for non-members of C.C.H.S.

REFRESHMENTS

"BEAUTIFUL WEST BRADFORD - BETWEEN THE BRANDYWINES"

Historical Association and BiCentennial Committee



" West Bradford Night " <sup>at</sup> Ches. Co. Historical Society  
 April 21<sup>st</sup> 1976

Name	Address
Ho Schofield	RD 4 - W.C.
Jan + Judy Eckhold	999 Broad Run Rd West Chester, Pa. 19380
Marian Juy	424 Wister Rd. Wynnewood, Pa. 19096
Nancy M. Hill	644 Sugars Bridge West Chester, Pa. 19380
Bill + Florence Supple	RD #4 Coatesville
Bill, Betty, + Susan Supple	
R. Armstrong +	RD #4 W. Chester
Barbara Reis and Rebecca Reis	R. D. 4 Ground Hog Rd W.C. Creek Woods Farm 1139 S. Pensive Ave Downingtown
Mrs. Jonathan D. Wood	851 Grand Run Road W.C.
Mrs. Robert Karatetta	805 Sugars Bridge Rd. Marshall
Nancy V. Moore	32 Elm St. Titon, N.Y.
Mrs. Root Moore	RD 4 Coatesville Pa.
Susan Supplee	1324 W. Strasburg Rd W.C.
Kenneth Trimble	Sugars Bridge Rd.
Ann Wigler	1518 Telegraph Rd. - W.C.
Francis Young	Marshallon Church
Trapp 412	1265 W. Strasburg Road W.
Dorothy H. Perdus	" " " "
L. Harry Perdus	" " " "
Barbara Howard	998 Broad Run Rd W.C.
Mr. + Mrs. Harrison Wetherill	RD #1 Downingtown
Robert Hodge	1000 Thorndale Rd W.C. 19386
Edward Hough + Dorothy	21731 W. Chester Road
W. H. Radford	1548 Hilltop Rd Downingtown.



# West Bradford

By ALLEN DAVIS  
Of The RECORD Staff  
Several developers in West

Bradford Township are  
grumbling over a state law  
requiring all approved sub-

## Marigolds to cover area

By ALLEN DAVIS  
Of The RECORD Staff

A very energetic West Bradford Historical Committee will attempt to cover the township with Marigolds for the Bicentennial summer, announced Peg Anderson, committee chairman.

Off to a good start, the township supervisors last night gave the committee an official sanction and approved a motion to make the Marigold the official township flower for the Bicentennial year.

Mrs. Anderson also announced a West Bradford night

will be held at the Chester County Historical Society. Exhibits and materials relating to West Bradford will be shown Wednesday night, April 21, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The committee has urged residents to bring any articles, papers, maps artifacts, pictures and anything else relating to West Bradford to share with others for the evening.

"We are really eager to reach many residents, especially the old-timers who will really enjoy the exhibit," Mrs. Anderson said.



DWARF DOUBLE  
GYPSY MARIGOLDS  
MIXED COLORS

## Organizations in the news

# West Bradford plans

A "farewell party for the Bicentennial" is being planned by the West Bradford Historical Association.

The public is invited to the event, to be held from 3-5 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the West Bradford Firehouse.

Included will be a reception to honor all West Bradford residents born on or before 1900, an autograph party for the introduction and sale of a new booklet, "Window on West Bradford," and a one-day mini-antique show featuring memorabilia of West Bradford's past.

Refreshments will also be served.

# Bicentennial

# Farewell



WEST BRADFORD DAY 1976

All Residents!

Sunday afternoon

November 21, 1976

3 - 5 P.M.

W.B. Firehouse      Marshallton

RECEPTION honoring all Residents born on or before 1900.....

Urge your family members to come!

Who is our oldest person?

Who has the largest family living here now?

Whose family has been in West Bradford longest?

AUTOGRAPH PARTY Introduction and Sale of the new booklet,

"Window on West Bradford". Be sure you have one of these

"collectibles" of the future!

A ONE-DAY MINI-ANTIQUe SHOW All residents are asked to bring anything

at all from the Past - pictures, books, letters, maps, objects,  
costumes, family data, etc.

Everyone welcome

Meet friends!

Enjoy the displays!

Brag about Beautiful West Bradford!

Save November 21 afternoon for a good get-together....a

FARE-WELL PARTY      FOR THE BICENTENNIAL

REFRESHMENTS!

given by West Bradford Historical Association



# HISTORIC COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

2-10-77

7:30 1. OPENING - CHAIRMEN ED STOUFF

### 2. Old Business

a. Inventory - status report

b. Historic Ordinance

c. MAPPING - PEG ANDERSON  
(PROGRESS REPORT)

d. Historic markers

### 8:30 3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Direction for Future



AGENDA  
3-10-77

WEST BRADFORD TWP,  
HISTORIC COMMITTEE

OPENING

OLD BUSINESS

- a. SURVEY STATUS REPORTS  
BY SECTIONS.  
DISTRIBUTE WORKSHEETS
- b. DEADLINE: MAY MEETING— FOR  
PRELIMINARY SURVEY
- c. HISTORIC MARKERS — DAVE DAVIS
- d. NEXT MEETING, MS. COHEN, ARCHITECTURAL  
HISTORIAN, PA. HISTORIC PRESERVATION,  
INVITE FOR PRESENTATION?

NEW BUSINESS

- a. STATE & NATIONAL REGISTRIES—  
WHAT IT MEANS TO THE PROPERTY  
OWNER.



You are invited to a social  
get-together for neighbors in  
the Romansville area who  
own or live in old houses  
(those 100 years old or older).

There is considerable interest  
in the history of the area and  
in dating old buildings etc.

Bring any pictures, maps,  
or any interesting items to  
share.

Meeting will be Friday evening  
Feb. 25 at 8 P.M. at 1977  
Bert and Peg Andersen's  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  mi south of Store - Long  
lane on right. 486-0866



Feb. 25 '77  
at Andeslea

Romansville —  
Get-together

Jean Jefferis  
Eloa Freyberger  
Harry Withenell  
Jean Withenell  
Gene Eckbold  
Judy Eckbold  
Guthrie  
Kay Guthrie  
Paul Atkinson  
Joan Atkinson  
Bill Supplee  
Sue Supplee  
Peg Anderson (Bert)



## Historians

A group of historians, who are concerned with West Bradford's past, is being formed. The first meeting of the organization will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, at the Marshalton Inn. All interested residents are welcome.

West Bradford Historians Meeting  
Tuesday evening May 2, 1978  
Marshalton Inn 8p.m.

Preston Davis  
Bill Supplee  
Winnie Johnson  
Jeff & Karen Smith  
Doug & Marge Barr

Mary Evans  
Nancy Hill  
David Davis  
Gertrude Meyer  
Flo Schofield

Peg Anderson  
Ann Widen

Peg Anderson gave an explanation of the original Historical Association. There will be a new splinter group to create a Social History of the Township.

Ideas for future projects;

Antique Show and Tell, Quilt and Coverlet Show, Romansville schools reunion, David Davis presented his idea for surveys and pictures of old houses for a book, create Historic District of Marshalton

Peg Anderson displayed and presented ideas to start with, she then asked for ideas from the floor. Some suggestions were; formal meetings with speakers, an annual event educational series, individual subjects any person could pursue.

David Davis reported that his committee is working on the West Bradford History. He then mentioned the boundaries and their origin.

Doug Barr will work on the idea that a scout troop would work on the Humphry Marshal yard.

Plans for West Bradford day were discussed.

Post cards brought by Bill Supplee were passed around.



WEST BRADFORD DAY  
AT ROMANSVILLE "

OCTOBER 15

1978

Displays and  
Demonstrations of arts  
12-5 P.M.

Church and Meeting Services  
11 a.m.

Flea market tables available

486-0566 - 696-2757

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE of WEST BRADFORD



# WEST BRADFORD DAY

SPEND THE DAY IN ROMANSVILLE

October 15, 1978

12-5 pm

Services at 11 am at:

Romansville Methodist church  
on Strasburg rd.

♀  
Romansville Friends meeting  
on Shadyside rd.

A Little of EVERYTHING for EVERYONE

a walking tour of romansville  
(parking at ~~EAST~~ or WEST END of village)

— historical records, books, maps,  
and pictures on display in  
the meeting house —

— Historic homes OPEN —



There will also be:

ARTISANS - painting, stained glass  
photography

Flea MARKET - tables provided

DISPLAYS - quilts + coverlets  
old tools and implements  
indian artifacts and OLD CARS

BRING SOMETHING to SHOW or JUST  
COME to SEE!

for information call: 486-0866 or 696-2754  
SPONSORED BY W.B. HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Locate:

- Romansville Hotel
- Lindberg's landing place
- Half way House
- Killdeer Tavern

Hillsboro Church

Cream Ridge Farm

Battins School house -

" ~~set~~ for sale 1863 on road  
leading from Evan woodwards to Gallat-  
terville, one mile from G.

Willow Grove farm - mills

"Tavern House"  
West Bradford Hotel (new Porch  
crisp)



Plans for this day were started several months before by talking up the idea, making lists of participants, getting articles and ads into local papers etc. Regular meetings of the Historical Committee turned into discussions and planning sessions, extra meetings were held. Posters and flyers were distributed close to the date. A big effort was made to involve persons from all over the township. It was considered to be a success.

The weather really was good considering the day before was rainy and cold. Sunday was cool, but clear and bright! The Committee\*\*\* turned out around 10 A.M. at the area given over for the event, the Romansville Meetinghouse and the Village Barnshops primarily. Participants and visitors came in and out all thru the day. We had made charts and maps for locating everyone taking part and showing their arts, crafts etc.

11 A.M. a Meeting for Worship was held in the Meetinghouse for all interested. 20 -25 people attended. After Meeting the partition of the Meetinghouse was opened and the whole building used. On one side was a display of quilts and coverlet and a demonstration of quilting by Sonia Shaeffer. On other side Dave Davis showed slides he has taken all over West Bradford and many people were interested and the show went on all afternoon. Many historic items were displayed such as books, maps, pictures etc. Bill, Flossie and Susan Supplee were on duty in the building.

Alice Lied Marsh and husband Thomas Marsh had old pictures and also a display of old wood tools, used in the Marsh Cabinet and coffin shop down a ways on StarGazers Road long ago. (Fairweather's now). Many older residents and former residents enjoyed these exhibits and found old friends to chat with and had a very happy time.

In the lot outside Harry Perdue, Robert Kerstetter and Edward Stouff had a great collection of old tools, farm implements etc. and stood by to explain and display them. The Boy Scouts of Marshalton under their leader Kenneth Trimble had set up camp, demonstrated cooking over open fire, rope-making etc. Out in the middle of the field (for safety) Al Gerhart and his family displayed and demonstrated Boomerangs that he makes.

The Historical Committee of the Tsp. had a large display of pictures and maps and other information organized and shown by Nancy Moore Hill and Marian Moore Fay. They endeavored to explain some of the details of the Marshalton Historical District project. Susan James showed how to cane chair-seats. Dorothy Montgomery showed some sculptures she has done and the clay she makes. Horace Marten had a fantastic display of Indian artifacts-arrowheads, hammers, grinding stones etc.- found in the general area. Carrie Cinter painted scenes on slates from the roofs of old Marshalton homes.

In one building the collection of artists included: Donald Booth who does etchings -- he had his copper plates and explained the process; Flo Scofield had some of her "brass rubbings" done in England from tombs in the church yards; Peggy Whiteman painted small oils of local scenes. Mr. Hajcak showed his unusual photographs; Trudie Costello



had a display of crafts and demonstrated spinning wool into yarn; Mary Evans made lampshades and she does in her Marshalton Shop.

Marshalton Grange, #1394, had a display and information booth with Master Robert Ellis on hand plus many other Grange members from the area. The Robert Guthries live in the old home of the Romans at one time. They invited guests to see thru the downstairs and many folks enjoyed and appreciated the restored charm of this home. The Methodist Church down the road was also open for the afternoon -- members served tea and showed many mementos and pictures including so many of the local residents, now and in the past. Some of those entertaining visitors there were Rev Duncan and his wife, May Osborn, Gladys Beale and others.

Signs were erected throughout the village to encourage folks to walk back and forth from one end to the other and to point out the many interesting homes, activities etc. Traffic was helped considerably by the presence of the W.B. Fire Police. Much appreciation should go to Gordon Reed for letting us "take over" the Barn Shopping area. The Committee closed the end of the successful day by eating dinner together at Gordans Restaurant/. Everyone taking part and attending seemed to enjoy the Day and have a very good time. We feel it helped bring the past and the history of the Township to their attention and many suggestions were offered that we continue something in this line.

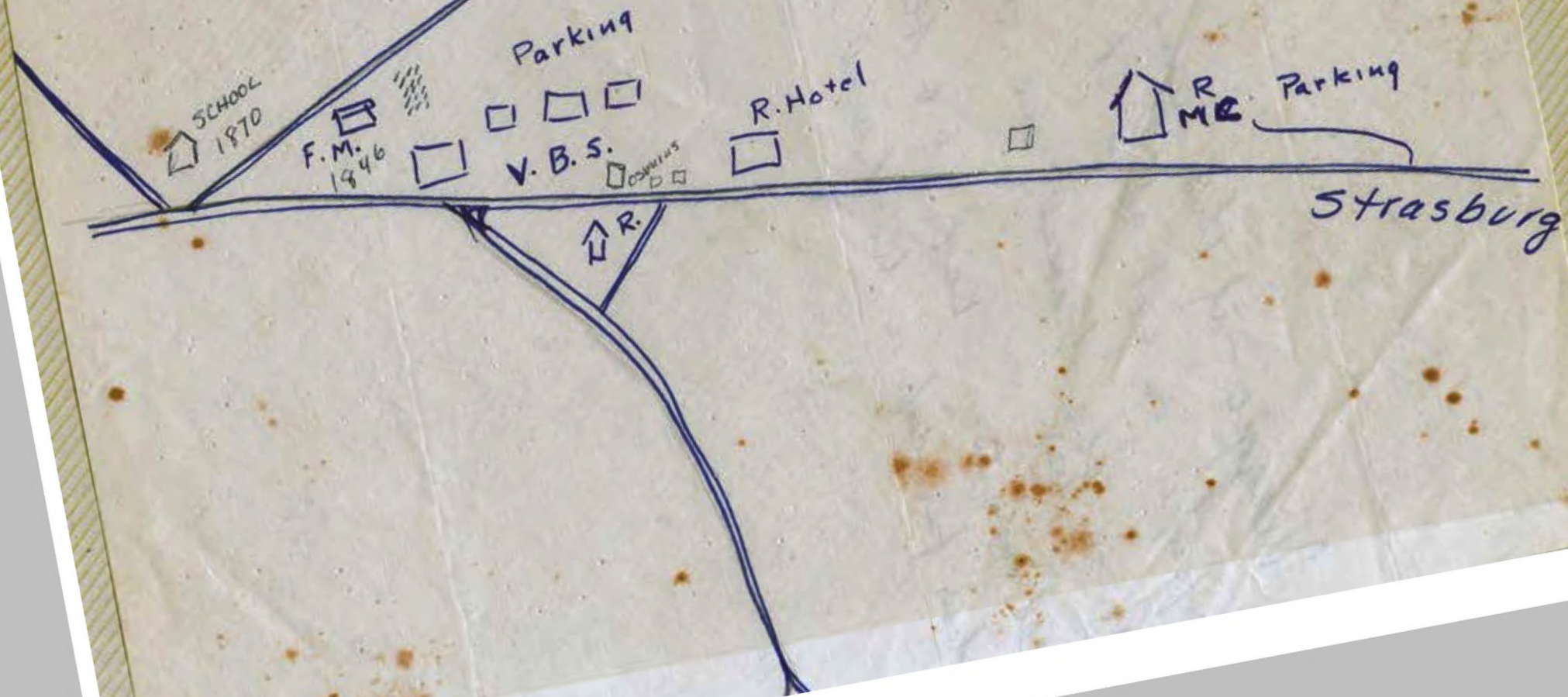
\*\*\*\*Committee consisted mostly of members of the West Bradford Historical Committee, especially some of those residing in the Romansville area -- their names are scattered thru the report - and are underlined. Other members are Kathy Davis, Ann Widen, Jean Jefferis

by Peg Anderson

We had decided in deference to Gordon Reed's restaurant business not to sell any food...but we had a coffee maker going and do-nuts for the workers and ended up selling over \$16.00 worth which was added to the Historical account. At any other function we would suggest food be offered for sale.



West Bradford Day  
at Romansville  
9-28-78

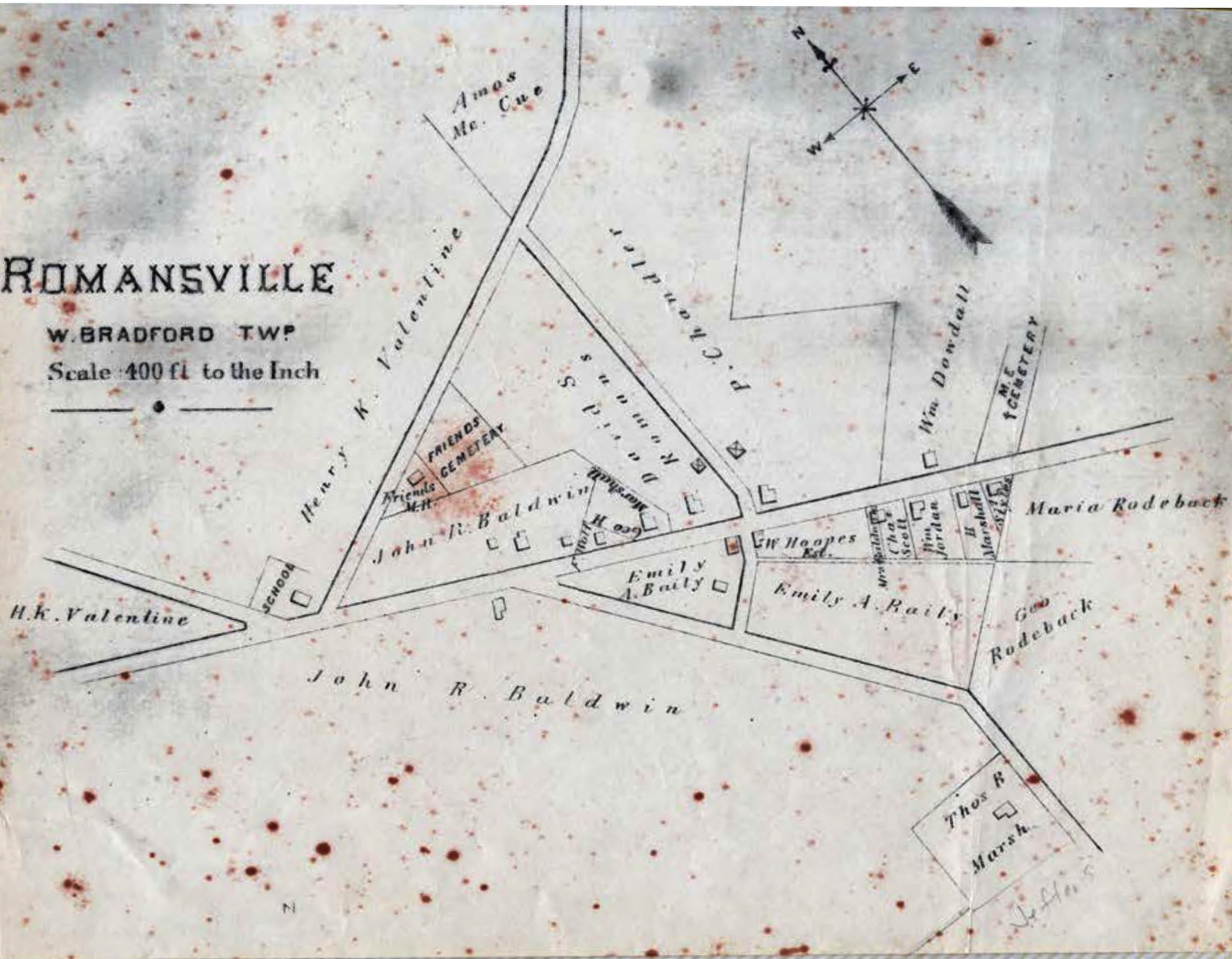




# ROMANSVILLE

W. BRADFORD TWP

Scale 400 ft to the Inch





# WANTED

## West Bradford

- Artists
- Craftspersons
- Musicians
- Collectors
- Hobbiesists

to participate in:

## WEST BRADFORD DAY

To be celebrated in

## ROMANSVILLE

Oct. 15 12 noon-5 p.m.

Phone

486-0866 696-2757

Coatesville Record 9-29-78

East Branch

W.C. Citizen

## For Sale

### WEST BRADFORD ARTISTS.

Craftpersons, collectors to participate in "West Bradford Day at Romansville" Oct. 15. Call 486-0866 or 696-2757 9/24/78

East Branch

## W. Bradford

## Day

9-28-78

Local artists who will give demonstrations of Colonial crafts, old and new coverlets and quilts, plus private collections of antique treasures are needed for West Bradford Day, which will be conducted from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15 at the Village Barn Shops and at Romansville Meeting House, both in Romansville. Call Peg Anderson at 486-0866.

# WANTED:

- Artists
- Craftspeople
- Musicians
- Collectors
- Hobbyists

of West Bradford and vicinity to participate in West Bradford Day at Romansville.

OCT. 15 -- 12-5 p.m.

For information call

486-0866 696-2757

D.L.N. 9-28-78

## OCTOBER 15 West Bradford Day At Romansville

Time: 12-5 p.m.

Reunion for Old-Timers  
Introduction for New-Timers

HISTORIC PLACES OPEN  
DISPLAYS OF INTEREST  
TO ALL

"Spend The Day In  
Romansville"

Cancelled if Raining

Telephone: 793-2255

Corner Strasburg and Shadyside Rds

DLN 10-11-78

C. Record 9-29

ATTEND THE CHURCH  
OF YOUR CHOICE

15

Brandywine Bike Club, 7th Annual Brandywine Ramble, 9:30 from the Brandywine River Museum for more info write Box 361 Unionville, Pa. 19375 • West Chester Coin Club meets at the Westminister Presbyterian Church, West Chester at 1 p.m. • Services at the Washington Memorial Chapel Valley Forge at 3 p.m. Carillon recitals at 2 & 3:30 p.m. • 20th Annual Chrysanthemum Show, Delaware County Area Vocational School, Broomall 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • West Bradford Day Romansville Village Barn Shop and Romansville Meeting, 12-6 p.m.



# West Bradford Day is slated

Where in West Bradford Township did Charles Lindberg land his plane in a dense fog, and where did he spend that night?

Which house was the Romansville Hotel?

How many one-room schoolhouses have existed in West Bradford?

The answers to these questions — and many more — will be found on West Bradford Day to be hosted by the West Bradford Historical Commission in Romansville on Sunday, Oct. 15.

The day will begin at 11 a.m. with services in the Romansville Methodist Church and a meeting for worship at the Friends Meetinghouse.

Dinner and snacks will be available at the restaurant and general store, and picnic grounds will be open. Parking will be at both ends of Romansville, and visitors encouraged to walk through the village to see the places of interest. The home of the Romans family, carefully refurbished, will be open to visitors.

Artists, craftsmen, musicians, collectors and historians will be at the Village Barn Shops from noon to 5 p.m., displaying their skills, talents and knowledge.

Residents and former residents of the township are asked to bring memorabilia to share. The Meeting House will be the center for maps, pictures, books, etc. Of special interest will be an exhibit of quilts and coverlets, old tools and implements.

Township residents may reserve free space for an outdoor flea market by calling 896-2757 or 486-0843.

will be provided from 8 p.m. to midnight by Joe Gracia.

Tickets are available from Stella Misiewicz, ways and means chairman, and each member may bring one guest.

Trustees will be at the P Club from 7-9 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 16, to sell banquet tickets and collect membership dues.

President Helen Novak announced the annual Christmas Party is slated for Sunday, Oct. 10, at the Olde Maple Inn, Brook. Maryann Kozlowski is taking reservations for the event, which will end at 5 p.m.

New members were Mary Kline, Ann Miller, D.

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DLN 9-29-78

15

Attend the church of your choice • Greater West Chester United Fund Sunday in many area churches • West Bradford Day, at Romansville Village Barn Shops & Romansville Meeting, noon to 6 p.m. • 7th Annual Brandywine Ramble, Brandywine Bike Club, starts 9:30 a.m. at Brandywine River Museum. For info., write Box 361, Unionville, Pa. 19375 • West Chester Coin Club, meeting, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1 p.m. • Sunday Services, Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, 3 p.m. Carillon at 2 & 3:30 p.m.

EAST BRANCH CITIZEN — THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1978

## Community Calendar

Friday, October 13

Soccer, LJrHS vs. East; home  
Hockey, LJrHS vs. Perkiomen Valley; home  
Cross Country, DHS vs. Owen J. Roberts, away; 4 p.m.  
Hockey, DJrHS vs. Spring-Ford; away, 3:30 p.m.  
Soccer, DJrHS vs. Scott; home, 3:15 p.m.  
Soccer, DJrHS vs. Brandywine; away, 3:15 p.m.

Saturday, October 14

Wheel and Dealers Square Dance Club, Uwchlan Hills Elementary School, 8 p.m.  
Football, Young Whippets, 70, 75 & 80 lbs., vs. Oxford; away  
Football, DHS vs. Boyertown; home, 1 p.m.  
Soccer, DHS vs. Twin Valley; home, 10 a.m.  
Girls tennis, DHS vs. Marple-Newtown; home, 10 a.m.  
Hockey, DHS vs. Kennett, home; 10 a.m.  
Cross country, DHS vs. Bishop Shanahan; home, 10 a.m.

Sunday, October 15

West Bradford Day at Romansville, 12-6 p.m., Village Barn Shops and Romansville Meeting  
Open House, Mother Goose Nursery School, Rte. 322, at Corner Ketch Rd., 2-4 p.m.



SUNDAY, OCT. 15, 1978

# Come all ye!

**To Romansville on West Bradford Day  
AND our Olde Fashioned  
Sunday Dinner**  
(We invented it!)

## Have a Good Time . . .

It's a reunion for  
the old-timers, an  
introduction for  
the new-timers  
Historic Places -- Exhibits  
Time -- 12-5 p.m.  
Corner of Strasburg &  
Shadyside Rds. "by the barn"

## . . .then "eat yourself full"

**HAM, TURKEY or  
ROAST BEEF**

2 vegetables, Soup, Salad Bar,  
Beverage, Roll & Butter

**\$4.45**

**Senior Citizens \$4.00**

Children under 16 FREE  
when accompanied by 2 paying adults.  
Limit 1 child per every 2 adults

**CHRISTOPHER'S  
Restaurant**

SERVED 12-7  
RESERVATIONS  
696-6041



Village Barn Shops  
Strasburg Rd., Romansville --  
7 miles west of West Chester

countries.

**W. Bradford**

**wants to hear**

**from 'old-timers'**

The West Bradford Township Historical Committee would like to hear from "old-timers" and former residents who will share memories and historical material for the committee's "West Bradford Day in Romansville" on Oct. 15.

The committee is particularly interested in all the one-room schools that have come and gone in the township. They would also like to hear from any pupils, teachers, and board members who were part of the township's early education efforts.

Oct. 15 will also be a Reunion for Old-Timers and an introduction to West Bradford for "new-timers" and all interested neighbors as well.

## Mailbag

### Old timers' help sought for 'West Bradford Day'

Editor News: Through the wide coverage of your paper we hope to find "old timers" and former residents of West Bradford Township who might share memories and historical material for our "West Bradford Day in Romansville" on Oct. 15.

We are interested in all the one-room schools that have come and gone in the township. We would like the names of teachers, pupils, board members, etc., who were part of the early education efforts.

Oct. 15 is planned as a reunion for old timers and an introduction to West Bradford for new timers and all interested neighbors -- a full day of activities, displays, etc.

Thank you.

MARGARET ANDERSON  
Coatesville RD 4  
JEAN JEFFERIS  
Coatesville RD 1  
J. EDW. STOUFF  
Downtown RD  
Historical Committee



## Organizations in the news

# Marshallton Day is set

Sunday, Sept. 23, will be a special day in the Village of Marshallton, with activities planned to highlight its 200-year history.

The day's events, being planned by the Historical Committee of the West Bradford Township Commission, will include exhibits by area artists, crafts sales and demonstrations, old farm equipment exhibits and self-guided tours of the village.

Any township residents, new or old, who have ideas or crafts they would like to offer, are asked to attend a meeting at 8 o'clock tomorrow night in the township building on Poorhouse Road.

Additional information is available by calling 696-2757 or 486-0866.

restored Victorian amusement park are included on this year's tour.

Tour tickets are \$5 per person, with an additional \$5 for those wishing to take the tour by chartered bus. Tickets, bus reservations and descriptive brochures are available from Rosemary Dinkel, 1839 Ursinus Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17603.

The Caln Civic Club will host its fall season with a dish luncheon at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at the Caln United Methodist Church.

Member service is provided at that time.

*Coatesville Record*  
Mott was asked what his question was, but it had passed from his mind at that point. The meeting went on.

Several announcements were made by Supervisor Stephen Hoyt: West Bradford Day will be held in Marshallton on Sept. 23, a Sunday, with a walking tour of the town, a discussion of where the township stands today, and some booths and other local attractions; Hoyt said he would not take part in any future discussions of or considerations of the Brondi

## WANTED:

- Crafts people
  - Artists
  - Merchants
  - Sports people
  - Organizations
- of West Bradford Twp. to participate in ...

### "WEST BRADFORD TODAY"

Sun., Sept. 23, 1-5 P.M.  
in MARSHALLTON

For information, call:  
**696-2757 or 486-0866**

A home of historic significance will house the exhibits of crafts and collections at West Bradford Day Sunday.

The event will be staged in the village of Marshallton and is being sponsored by the West Bradford Historical Society.

Anyone who has a favorite family collection, quilt, needlework or hobby is welcome to add items to the display.

Additional information about the day, which includes a self-guided tour of the 200-year-old village, is available by calling 696-2757 or 46-0866.

## Special event in Marshallton

The West Bradford Historical Committee will have a special event in Marshallton Sunday, Sept. 23. There will be art exhibits, craft sales and demonstrations, exhibits of old farm equipment and tours of Marshallton.

Those who can help with the day's activities or wish to sell or exhibit should come to a meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, in the township building on Poorhouse Road. For more information, call 696-2757 or 486-0866.

West Bradford  
Residents  
**THE PLACE TO BE  
SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
SEPTEMBER 23  
IS MARSHALLTON**

for a glimpse  
of the past  
& a look at today  
1 to 5 p.m.  
**West Bradford**



WEST BRADFORD  
DAY

SEPT 23 '79 1-5 PM

CRAFTS

DISPLAY'S

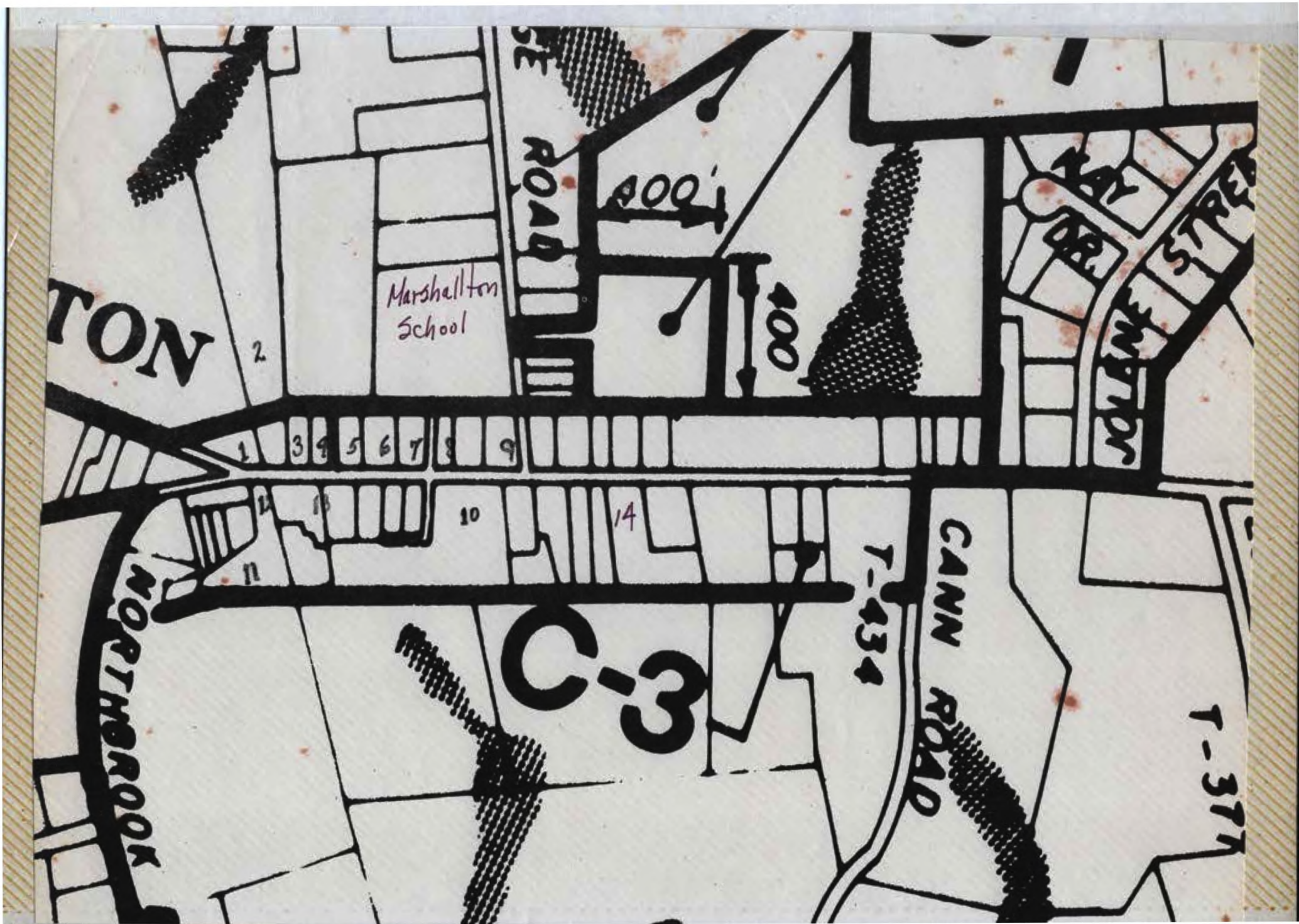
MEMORABILIA

WALKING TOUR OF

MARSHALLTON.

ALL WEST BRADFORD RESIDENTS  
WELCOME







## NOTES ON SOME OF THE HOMES & STRUCTURES OF MARSHALLTON

### 1. HUMPHRY MARSHALL HOUSE (1722-1801)

Humphry Marshall built this house in 1773 and lived in it until he died in 1801. Humphry was a mason, with little formal schooling, who devoted his spare time to the study of Botany. He filled many public offices and was prominent in matters of Bradford Friends Meeting. His great claim to fame was his book "The American Grove" which was published in 1785. Humphry Marshall exchanged botanical data and specimens with the leading scientists in America and Europe. Remains of his arboretum and botanical gardens are still on the property.

### 2. WILLIAM CHAMBERS HOUSE

In the house sitting high up on the lawn lived William Chambers, undertaker and cabinetmaker. A later resident Jacob Fisher, also a cabinetmaker, had a shop which stood at the end of the lawn near the street. A blacksmith shop operated by Thomas Marshall stood here. These two buildings have long since been torn down.

### 3. BAILEY HOUSE

Abraham Bailey occupied this house in the early 19th century. Mr. Bailey was the first postmaster of Marshallton. It is said the first post office was located in this house in 1805.

### 4. TOWN HALL

Built in 1912 by the old order of independent Americans. An earlier town hall built by Knights of Pythias in 1876 stood where the current school is built.

### 5. PIERCE RODEBACK HOUSE

Home of Pierce Rodeback, a stone mason by trade. He kept a little restaurant in the rear of the house.

### 6. JACKSON HUGHES HOUSE

This house at various times in its history has been a clothing store, a cigar factory, and a bakery.

### 7. WILLIAM LOLLER HOUSE

William Loller, with his son Nelson, conducted a tinsmithing and plumbing business from that house.



8. CONGRESS HALL

This house was originally James Embree's cradle and scythe shop. After Embree moved his business from Marshallton, Nelson Loller bought the shop and conducted a cigar store for many years. It became known as "Congress Hall" where all congregated to "swap lies and chew the fat."

9. MARTINS STORE

George Martin first built a store on this site in 1836. This original store burned in 1889, and the present store was built in 1890.

10. MARSHALLTON INN

Originally known as the "General Wayne Hotel" when it was built by Abraham Martin.

11. BRADFORD FRIENDS MEETING

First meeting house was a log structure built near the Brandywine in 1729. The present meeting house was built in 1765.

12. THE OLD STORE

This structure has had quite a chain of owners and occupants in its history. The front, close to the road was used as a store. In all likelihood the first merchant was Abraham Bailey in 1805.

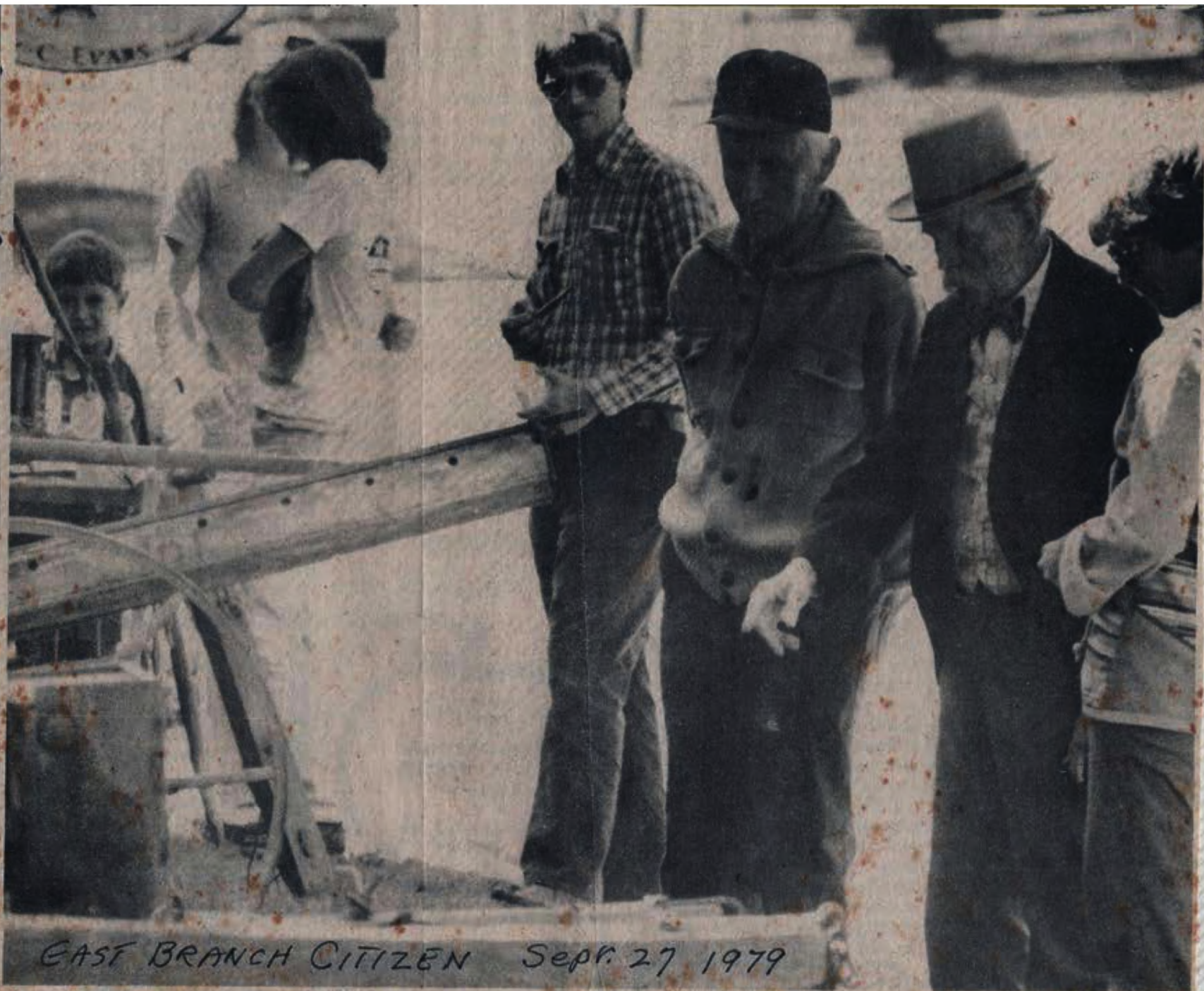
13. BLACKSMITH SHOP

The only remaining wheelwright and blacksmith shop in Marshallton.

14. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Original church built in 1829 with burying ground wall around graveyard built in 1849, wagon sheds in 1850. 1890 old building remodeled and present church built.





EAST BRANCH CITIZEN Sept. 27 1979

Harry Perdue (in old fashioned fedora) shows antique farm implements to visitors at West Bradford Day in Marshallton.

Sunday, Sept. 23. The event included historical and craft exhibits, and an open house at the West Bradford Fire Co.



E.D. Citizen 9-25-80

## West Bradford Day planned

Are you a West Bradford resident? Do you have a craft, talent or collection you'd like to show off? Would you like to meet some neighbors and see what they're "into"? If so, you can set aside from 1 to 4:40 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 to be at the West Bradford School to find out all about your township and its residents at the annual West Bradford Day. The event is sponsored by the township's Historical Committee to help residents get acquainted with each other and with their township.

There'll be folks like Russell Reis demonstrating his bird carvings, Linda Fichter with her ceramics, Peggy Whiteman with her miniature oils, Mary Evans making her lampshades, and Horace Martin with a collection of arrowheads. William Supplee will be putting together an exhibit on the township's history. And Jean Hagele has listed the township's businesses and services.

There will also be music provided by other township residents, and refreshments. If you'd like to participate, call Mike Osborne at 269-8631 or Peg Anderson at 486-0866.

E.D. Citizen '80

## WANTED WEST BRADFORD

- Artists • Craftspeople
- Musicians • Collectors
- Hobbyists

to participate in

"WEST BRADFORD DAY 1980"

SAT., SEPT. 27 1-4:30

West Bradford School

Info? Call

486-0866 or 269-8631

## WEST BRADFORD DAY!

for all township residents

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

1 P.M.-5 P.M.

WEST BRADFORD SCHOOL

Historical Exhibits •  
Art • Crafts • Hobbies  
Business and Services  
Display. . .

COME AND TAKE PART!

WEST BRADFORD  
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

486-0866

269-8631

Civille Record - twice



# WEST BRADFORD DAY - 1980

- ARTISTS
  - CRAFTS
    - HOBBYISTS
      - FIRE ENGINE RIDE
        - REFRESHMENTS

SAT. SEPT. 27 1-4:30 PM

WEST BRADFORD SCHOOL



WEST BRADFORD HISTORICAL COMMITTEE



# WEST BRADFORD DAY

TriCentennial  
1682-1982  
chester county

APRIL 25, 1982  
1 - 5 P.M.

VILLAGE OF MARSHALLTON



## **Program**

1. Parade — 2 P.M.
2. Downingtown H.S. Band (State Champs)
3. Tree Planting Ceremony (Bradford Cemetery)
4. Games
5. Arts & Crafts
6. Student Art Show
7. Balloons
8. Refreshments

## **Acknowledgements**

West Bradford Fire Co.  
West Bradford Fire Police  
Home & School Association  
WBYA  
Boy Scouts  
Girl Scouts  
Cub Scouts  
Brownies  
West Bradford Hunt  
Marshallton Grange  
West Bradford Lions Club  
Marshallton Nursery  
Highland Orchard  
West Bradford Historical Committee  
West Bradford School



East Branch  
Citizen  
4-15-82

If you live in West Bradford Be in Marshallton April  
25, 1-5 p.m. to celebrate our TRICENTENNIAL!

Share Hobbies—Show Crafts—

Advertise Your Business!

Meet Your Friends!

Food—Games—Parade with

**THE CHAMPIONS—**

**Downingtown High School Band**

**CALL FOR INFORMATION 269-8631 or 486-0866**

## WANTED

• CRAFTS PEOPLE • ARTIST  
• MERCHANTS • ORGANIZA-  
TIONS • MUSICIANS OF  
WEST BRADFORD TWP.

CELEBRATING

**300th BIRTHDAY**

**April 25th, 1-5 P.M.**  
in Marshallton

Call for information

**486-0866**

**269-8631**

# West Bradford Tricentennial

West Bradford Township residents are invited to join in the festivities planned for West Bradford Day, as part of the township's annual celebration and this year's county Tricentennial events, Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25.

Events scheduled for Saturday include a tailgate sale sponsored by the West Bradford Home and School Association, which welcomes donations and consignors, and a dedication of the playing fields at the West Bradford School by the West Bradford Youth Association.

Sunday's schedule includes a parade through the village of Marshallton at 2 p.m., featuring township scout troops, the state champion Downingtown High School marching band, the West Bradford Hunt and Hounds, and floats. There will be a tree-planting ceremony at 1 p.m. at

West Bradford Cemetery, kicking off tree plantings all over the township by the Lions Club.

Residents are also invited to display and/or sell arts and crafts, needlework and quilts, and participate in a tug-of-war competition between the township's neighborhoods, all on Sunday. There will be games for the children, food, refreshments and balloons for sale, and a walking tour of historic Marshallton. There will also be displays of the township's history, and of local businesses and services.

Anyone interested in signing up for any of the activities is asked to call Peg Anderson at 486-0866 or Mike Orsborn at 269-8631. Anyone interested in participating in the tailgate sale should call 269-3240 or 486-0366.

## WEST BRADFORD RESIDENTS

Have you signed up to take  
part in our Tri-Centennial?

**Sun., April 25, 1-5**

**HOBBIES • CRAFTS • ARTS**

**• BUSINESS •**

For information call

**269-8531**

**486-0866**

DLN Mon Apr 25



# *West Bradford holds its*



(RECORD photo by Scott Rowan)

**DOWNINGTOWN** Senior High School's Blue and Gold Marching Band moves through Marshallton as part of a parade marking the Tricentennial of West Bradford

Township. The parade was part of a weekend of activities held in the township.

**By PHYLLIS ROWAN**  
**RECORD Correspondent**

Something live was buried in the cemetery in West Bradford Township on Sunday.

The burial was the climax of activities marking West Bradford Day in conjunction with the township's Tricentennial Recognition Week.

Mike Osborne, chairman of the township's historical commission, and Peg Anderson, program chairman, planned a full slate of events beginning Saturday with the ribbon cutting and dedication of the

athletic field for the West Bradford Youth Athletics. Jonathan Wood, township supervisor, and Bill Moyer, representative of the youth athletic association, were in charge of the ceremonies.

**SUNDAY'S MAIN** events were a parade through Marshallton and a tree planting ceremony in the cemetery.

Prior to the parade, the crowds were able to view and purchase the wares of many local craftsmen. Local Rembrants and Van Goghs displayed their talents at the West

Bradford Elementary School. The first through fifth grade students depicted Indian life and customs through various art media.

Hundreds gathered to enjoy the perfect weather and the food sold to benefit the West Bradford Fire Co., while waiting for the first glimpse of the parade.

**AS THE PARADE** made its way down Strasburg Road, the crowds enjoyed glimpsing their friends and neighbors in the participating groups.

(Please turn to Page Three)



# 300th birthday bash

(Continued from Page One)

Following the honor guard was the car carrying township officials Jonathan Wood, George Graham, Sam Weaver and Jack Hines.

Representatives of the Marshallton Grange, the Bradford Friends Meeting and the West Bradford Lions Club followed.

To a standing ovation, the state champion Downingtown High School Blue and Gold Marching Band entertained those along the route with their winning style of performance.

**ALSO PARTICIPATING** were members of local Cub, Boy Scout, Brownie and Girl Scout troupes. Preceding the scouts were members of the baseball and soccer West Bradford Youth Athletics teams.

Without doubt, the most popular attraction in the parade were the clowns from the Thorndale Baptist Church. Travelling the route on roller skates, in wagons or using their out-sized feet, they delighted all ages when they passed out balloon animals and candy.

Arriving to the sound of hunting horns, the West Bradford Hunt trotted down the route. It was a near perfect show with close to 20 dogs following the horses. Only one of the canine compatriots strayed from the course to investigate the events on the sidelines.

**CLOSING OUT** with West Chester's Good Fellowship Ambulance and the full West Bradford Fire Co., the parade made its way down Northbrook Road to the West Bradford cemetery, where a tree planting ceremony was to take place.

Sponsored by the West Bradford Lions Club to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the county, the hemlock planted at the cemetery was only one of five trees planted throughout the township by the club.

According to Lions Club member Dave Glarner, "This year's theme of

the Lions International president is 'People at Peace,' peace being well represented by nature. By planting a tree, we are planting the seeds of peace."

Glarner stated in his dedication

speech that this tree planting was to "salute the rich historic past of West Bradford Township...and symbolizes a sincere wish that its people over the next century will indeed be 'People of Peace.'"





**WEST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP** marked its 300th anniversary over the weekend with a number of activities. Members of the West Bradford Lions Club (above) held

a tree-planting ceremony at the local cemetery, one of five sites in the township.

(RECORD photo by Scott Rowan)





The West Bradford Hunt, including its pack of beagles, pranced in the township's Tricentennial parade Sunday.





TRICENTENNIAL celebrating drew over 2,000 participants and spectators yesterday to the village of Marshallton, West Bradford Township. A Tricentennial parade organized by the township historical committee was only part

of West Bradford Day which also included an afternoon arts and crafts display. Pictured above (from left) are the parading hounds and riders of the West Bradford Hunt Club, historical committee member Harry Perdue posing



Scrapbooks of before and after pictures underline the enormity of the job, but the Rohrs never lost sight of the fact that the hay mow was actually going to be a gracious living room, and the breeding stall a recreation room, and the granery a spacious center hall.

#### **In one family for 151 years**

The barn is recorded, deeded to the Martin family from 1790 until 1941. Although in the family prior to 1790, the Rohrs ran into a dead deed, and were unable to continue their search. Cleaning uncovered an in-

itialled stone TH on the end wall. They speculate that the barn may have been built by a neighbor, whose last name was Hickman.

The barn is a Swiss style, which is unusual in Chester County, Pennsylvania. German in origin, it has a shallow overhang.

#### **Original walls to stay**

The Rohrs plan to keep all of the original stone walls, but are insulating heavily. Four fireplaces will help with the heating, which will be their major expense. They are keeping their plumbing on the first floor, above the horses, to cut costs. The kitchen will be on the first floor and the living room and sun deck on the third. Original barn siding is used for indoor paneling. They are using original barn doors wherever possible and original hinges. Additional hinges have been duplicated by a Marshallton blacksmith. Some of the outdoor siding is new, especially cut in an Amish sawmill in Paradise that is able to cut heavy beams.

The fields, once overrun with brambles are neatly cleared and fenced and a ramshackle chicken house has been turned into

a tidy kennel for the dogs.

The Rohrs bought a space heater and worked throughout the winter.

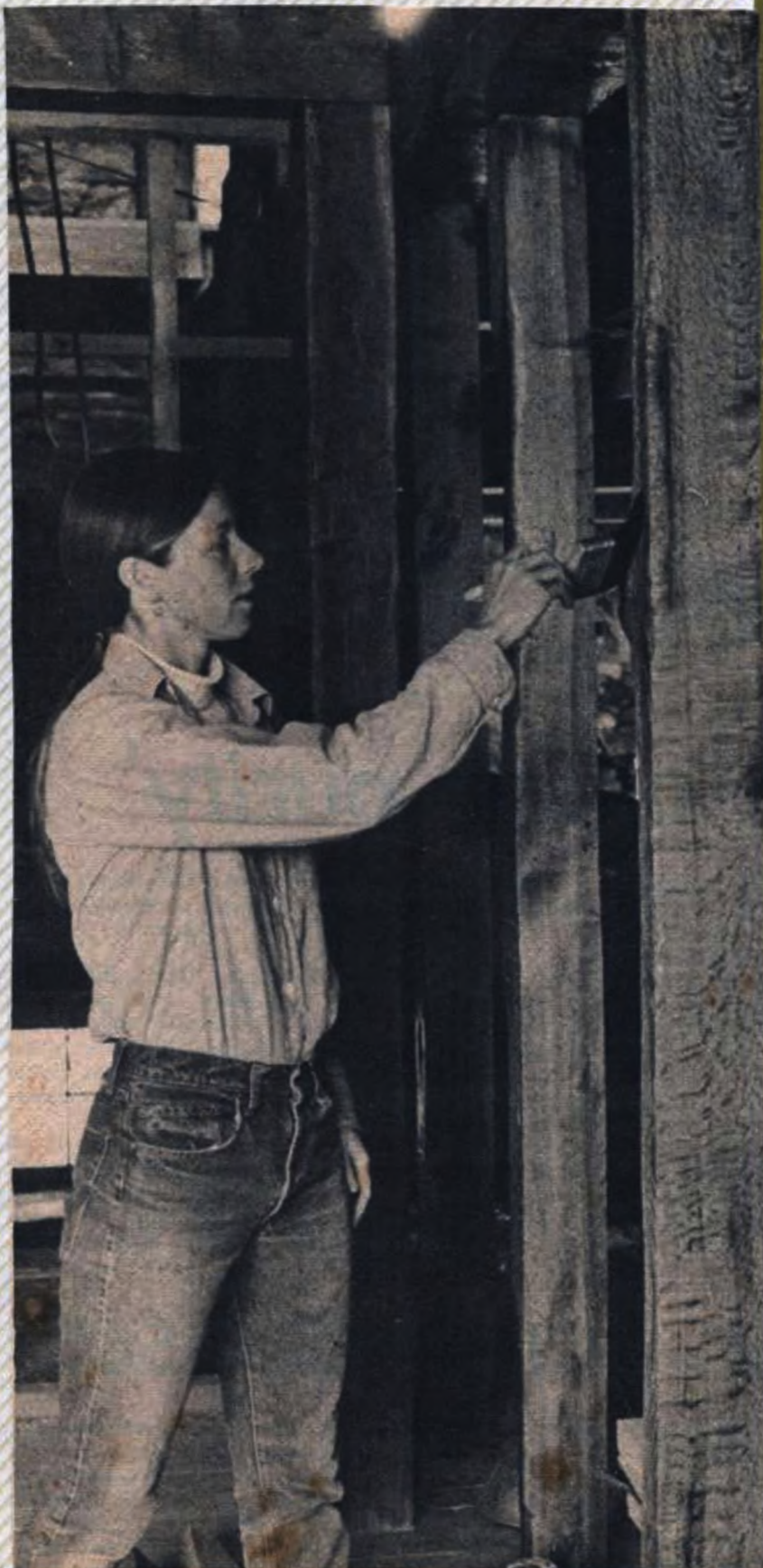
"It's a 50-50 proposition. We hold up beams and put in floor and siding together," says Ms. Rohr.

#### **A schedule and priorities**

They try to keep to a schedule and a list of priorities in their work, which keeps them occupied every night and weekends, but occasionally they have to cope with an unexpected emergency. Recently they had to abandon their schedule to tear out the dirt from the north wall because water was leaking into the barn.

Neither Rohr has time for hobbies of motorcycling or riding because the barn is a permanent commitment. Even the barn bats and pigeons have realized that they are losing their home. Of sixty pigeons only one remains, along with a few bats which swoop about the high eaves in the hay mow.

"We're a first because we really are doing everything ourselves," says Jim Rohr eyeing his barn with the same pride that the first pioneer probably had in his completed log cabin.



**SPREADING WOOD PRESERVER** on old beams is one of the innumerable jobs Cheryl Rohr does as she and her husband Jim go methodically about their work of turning their barn into a home.



# Marshallton Inn is placed on Historic Place Register

By PAT DONAHUE  
(Of the Local News Staff)

From 1822, when Abraham Martin first opened a public house in the bustling village of Marshallton, up to the present day, the Marshallton Inn has gone from a prosperous hotel to local taproom and back to an established restaurant.

But the building itself, a pointed fieldstone and frame house considered to be one of the oldest continuously-operated public houses in the county, will no longer be subject to the tides of fortune its various owners have undergone over the years.

As of last month, the historic Marshallton Inn in West Bradford has come under the aegis of the National Register of Historic Places, thus protecting it from the perils of progress.

First written records available show the Inn was already built by 1814, when Abraham Martin first applied for a license to make it a tavern, over the protests of his mother-in-law from whom he'd bought the land.

The great Strasburg road, which ran past the inn's doorstep, had been completed in 1794, connecting Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and bringing an influx of teamsters, drovers and other travelers through Marshallton.

But George Mershon, current owner of the inn and an expert himself on historical and archaeological dating techniques, said the building was erected prior to 1795.

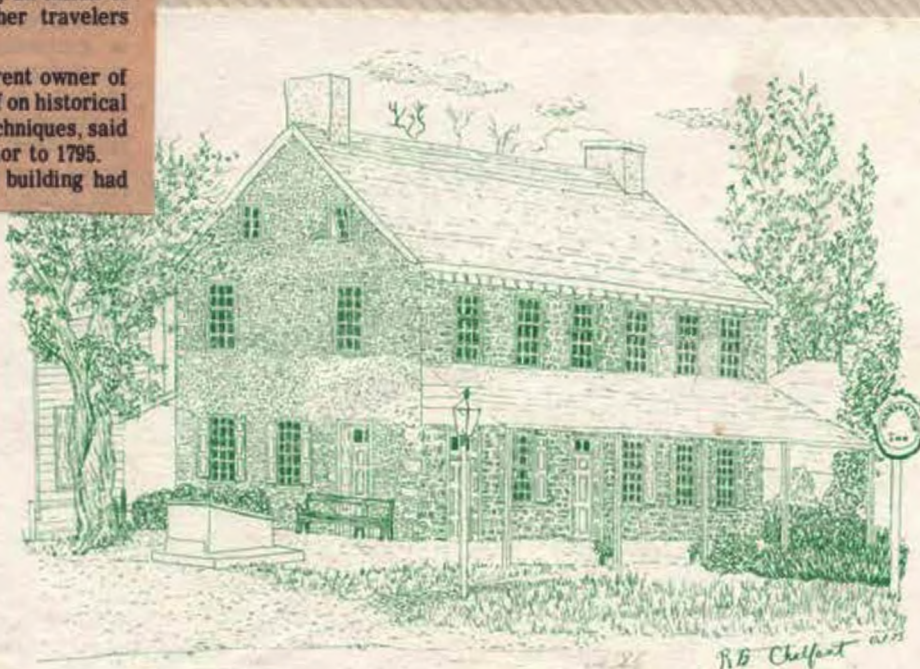
He explained the original building had

handmade nails, while nailmaking machines were invented in 1795. "You can bet that nobody used handmade nails after 1795."

The original building is on the east side of the inn, while the dining area on the west side was added by Martin in 1814. Other additions came and went, along with owners and names, which included "Sign of the General Wayne", "Wayne Inn" and "Marshallton Hotel".

Restoration work began in earnest five years ago, Mershon said, when he became sole owner of the Inn. The original paint colors, floorboards and other items have been retained and restored, and the Inn furnished with hardware, furniture and other authentic trappings of the period.

Having met the National Register's criteria for designation as an historic site, the Inn continues to function in the modern-day world of rules and regulations, serving the twentieth-century traveler in nineteenth-century style.



Marshallton Inn - 1300 West Strasburg Road, West Chester, Pa.



# 8-year battle wins protection for a Chester County stream

**BROAD RUN, from 1-B**  
Clay Creek, also in Chester County.

"It means a lot," said C. Mark Hersh, the DER water-pollution biologist who compiled the extensive research necessary to help Broad Run achieve its new status. "I was really surprised that such a rural, peaceful valley could still exist so close to Philadelphia."

The designation means, in short, "that the water quality of Broad Run shall not be lowered," Hersh said. It means treated sewage cannot be dumped into the stream unless it is of the same high standards as the stream's own clear, clean water, a horrendously expensive proposition for any potential developer.

It means no one can do anything on the land that constitutes the stream's drainage basin that might affect the water's quality. No paving, no large-scale excavation that could promote silt runoff. No felling of the red oaks, hickories, beeches and poplars. No spoiling the groundwater that feeds the stream with its cool springs. Even farmers must be vigilant that the fertilizers they spread not find their way into the stream as it flows through West Bradford Township before emptying into the west branch of the Brandywine Creek.

"Other rural areas have nice stream valleys and beautiful vistas, but when you check the water you find that even agriculture has taken its toll," Hersh said. "Broad Run seems to have escaped all that somehow."

If the Broad Run's rushing water does sing a sweet song, at least a few bars must be a serenade for Dale Longmaid, its best friend. Ten years ago Longmaid, 49, moved into a house not far from the stream's edge. In no time she learned that the water had native brook trout, rare for a stream in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

With the help of friends, neighbors and any government body that would lend a hand, she spotted and documented endangered wildlife, fish and plants. She made hundreds of phone calls and even spent some of her own money.

Eight years ago she petitioned DER to upgrade Broad Run's status.

"Most of the credit has to go to Dale; she was the driving force behind it," Hersh said.

For Longmaid, it was a tough but enjoyable battle. "Can you believe it? Eight years," she said. "But it is important for people to know that if they think they have a pristine stream, they must be prepared to roll

up their sleeves and hang in until the job is done. The more work the people do, the less the state has to do."

"Many streams have been given just general designations because the state does not have the money or the people to go out and check every one. But there are probably lots of streams out there of exceptional value."

Hersh agreed. "If no one else would have gone out and done it, anything could have happened to Broad Run," he said. "This is the way environmental battles are going to have to be fought, one small stream at a time."

On a recent day, as Longmaid took a visitor on a tour of the valley she knows so well — remarking on the old flax mill, the marked Indian burial grounds, the restored stone bridge — she pondered how she was going to celebrate her victory.

"I'm just thrilled," she said. "I thought about popping a bottle of champagne, taking my little glass and just sitting down on a rock and dipping my toes into the stream," she said. "But then I wondered 'Do I need a permit to do that?' You're not allowed to hurt the water quality, you know."

Down below, the Broad Run gurgled onward, its rapids bubbling.



Special to The Inquirer / JOAN FAIRMAN KANES

Broad Run, which flows near Route 162 and Broad Run Road.



LIVING

## *A demonstration of the old ways down on the farm*

By Catherine Quillman  
*Special to The Inquirer*

Marshall Jones' Champion thresher, made about 1873 in Pottstown, sounded like a pair of misfiring trucks rolling down a road.

The thresher seemed to require an unduly amount of attention, too. Chester Lewis, Otis Astle and other members of the Chester County Farm and Home Antique Association gathered around the machine, making minor adjustments.

The demonstration was part of the annual West Bradford Day, sponsored by the West Bradford Historical Society and held Sunday at the Romansville Meeting House on Strasburg Road.

The association, composed of about 50 collectors of antique cars and farm machinery, gets together several times a year for demonstrations, banquets and farm shows. But in reality, according to Jones, members meet to swap stories about their latest finds.

"Thirty years ago, all this stuff was going for junk," said Jones, who acquired the Champion thresher several years ago at an auction for \$12.50. Jones, a farmer from Westtown, owns about 30 pieces of bygone farm equipment, including an 1840 thresher that required four horses to operate. (Still in working condition, the thresher is on display at Springton Manor.)

Roland Woodward Sr. of Pocopson, the historian of the association, was on hand with a megaphone to point out some of the Champion thresher's features and

the important role it once had in Chester County's farming community. "Two years ago, we did a demonstration for a woman who didn't know that flour came from wheat," Woodward told a small crowd that gathered within shouting range of the thresher. "By the end of the day, she understood how these machines work."

The Champion brand was a stationary model — known as a barn thresher — and was generally used by an individual farmer. There were also larger, portable threshers used by custom farmers, who traveled from farm to farm, working through the seasons with such crops as barley, wheat, oats and, in the fall, buckwheat.

"Usually, threshing is done after the harvest in July. So right now, we're sort of short on material," Woodward said as crew members fed fistfuls of wheat into the machine. The thresher shook on its platform, admitting wheat kernels and chaff through separate funnels.

The thresher was operated by a belt-power attachment hooked to the rear axle of a 1923 Model T Ford, which was brought to the event by Lewis, its owner. Although threshers could be operated by gas engines, there was a particular reason why a Ford was used, Woodward said.

"When the Model T first came out, it cost \$100. That was a royal price for farmers to pay," he said over the pattering and thumping sounds of the thresher.

"Naturally, they had to find more





# WBTA

## WEST BRADFORD YOUTH ATHLETICS

### TRICENTENNIAL PARADE

WBTA - LINE UP AND BE COUNTED!!!

SHOW YOUR COUNTY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH WEST BRADFORD  
YOUTH ATHLETICS.

APRIL 25 IN MARSHALTON

THE PARADE FORMS ON JOLENE DRIVE (EAST END OF MARSHALTON) AT 1:30

### PARADE ROUTE

LUCKY HILL ROAD, DOWN ROUTE 162 ONTO NORTHBROOK TO THE CEMETARY  
FOR TREE PLANTING DEDICATION.

### UNIFORM

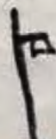
WBTA TEAM UNIFORMS - COMFORTABLE SHOES (NO CLEATS)

COACHES SHOULD ALSO WEAR TEAM SHIRTS

GAMES BEHIND THE SUGAR BRIDGE SCHOOL BEFORE AND AFTER THE PARADE

RAIN DATE IS SUNDAY MAY 2nd.

para



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W. Bradford  
Day - Apr 24 '82

Parking

Games

ART SHOW

Displays

Sch.

Parking

Trudy Spin

Parade

BS

BS

Firehouse  
FOOD

Arts  
& Crafts

← Parade

Histor.  
team

Display

Bl.  
Shop

Paintings

marsh.  
Inn.

Oyster  
Bar

Met  
Ch  
disple

Intg  
House

Parking

✓ Cemetery



# West Bradford

*Continued from Page 1*

The public houses were important parts of community life then. People met there to eat, drink, and query travelers about the latest news. Before telephones, telegraphs and newspapers reached the area, travelers were the main source of news of national and world events.

Marshallton, named for Humphrey Marshall (1722-1810), a preeminent American botanist, has been the informal "capital" of West Bradford since the town was formed. Settled for the first time in 1713, the area was owned by Edward Clayton and Thomas Arnold, who bought 198 acres from William Penn. For the first century of Marshallton's existence, the town was heavily Quaker. The Bradford Meeting is one of the oldest structures in town, having been built in 1729.

James Woodward was the first settler to live within the boundaries of the present town. He moved there in 1737.

Rev. Alban Hooke introduced Methodism to Marshallton in 1812, and the religion soon took root in the area.

The first post office was built in 1805, the year the town was christened Marshallton. The Quaker school was erected in 1838, the first town hall in 1872, and the Knights of Pythias hall in 1876.

Agriculture has always been an important part of the township's economy. Farms, nurseries and orchards have prospered in West Bradford for centuries, and continue to do well to this day.

West Bradford has had the reputation of being a quiet place. In 1867, in fact, Joseph T. Lamborn was fined \$4 and costs for "performing worldly employment on the Sabbath," a newspaper account states. "He was horse-raking."

Still, there were entertainments, including dances and concerts, at various locations in the township. The Knights of Pythias Hall in Marshallton seems to have been a particularly attractive gathering place.

In 1875, there was a move to create a new Bradford Township out of East and West Bradford and Newlin Townships. Local residents met in Marshallton to debate the matter.

"Speeches and arguments fell thick as hail" at the meeting, according to reports, but it was decided not to form the new township.

Toward the turn of the century, Indian Deep was a popular resort. Located on the Brandywine at Northbrook, the "Deep" drew guests from West Chester, Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore to dances, concerts, athletic competitions, boating and riding.

West Bradford was also the

home of the first county home for the poor. The home was built in 1798 to give shelter to the county's destitute. Each municipality had to pay for its residents at the home. The home was located on a farm, which sold the products it grew to help pay for itself.

West Bradford was in the news in 1928, when international hero Charles Lindbergh and his lawyer, Henry Breckenridge, were forced to land on the farm of Emmor R. Way, near Romansville. Fog forced the plane, a sister ship to "The Spirit of St. Louis," to land in a muddy field.

Lindbergh and Breckenridge stayed the night at Stock Grange, the home of Charles Elkington, later to be the home of actor Claude Rains.

Today, West Bradford still depends heavily on agriculture for the livelihood of its residents. But the township has seen tremendous growth in population as more homes are built. In 1932, for example, 1,558 people called West Bradford home. Now over 7,300 people live in the township.



# Nurseries, orchards still

(Editor's Note: In commemoration of Chester County's Tricentennial celebration, each municipality in the county will be spotlighted in a series of articles prepared by the Chester County Tricentennial Committee.)

By RENEE WILTROUT

West Bradford Township has not changed drastically in respect to its industry. Nurseries and orchards are still the major industries as they were in the days of Humphrey Marshall, the famous botanist. Agriculture is still the way many residents earn their livelihood.

West Bradford Township was incorporated in 1731 when Bradford Township was divided into East and West. The population of West Bradford is 7,320 and it is located in the center of Chester County. Much of the township remains untouched by progress and there is an abundance of open space that is suited for 600 acres of campgrounds and parks.

The township has a rich history that began before the Revolutionary War. Richard Buffington was the first settler in the township. In 1696, William Westal pur-

chased from William Penn the land that is presently West Bradford Township. The land was settled by the British. This is evident by the names of the first families that settled in township. The Marshalls, Embrees, Trimble and Buffingtons were important citizens and founding fathers of the township.

Humphrey Marshall was one of West Bradford's most distinguished citizens. Born in 1722, he was a pioneer in the field of botany. He wrote several books on the subject of American trees. In 1733, he built one of the first botanical gardens in the New World. His gardens still remain at the Marshall house.

Another important event in the township's history was the establishment of the first county home in Chester County for the poor. In 1798, ground was broken for a large farm house to give shelter to the poor of the county. Each township was responsible to pay support for each of its residents being sheltered. The county home also had facilities for the sick. The home was able to remain almost self-sufficient because of the amount and variety of other products that could be produced by the farm. The residents were required

to perform various chores to pay for their keep. Poorhouse Road is the only remaining evidence of the institution that still remains.

## Lone Eagle lands

More recently in the history of West Bradford Township is the forced landing of Col. Charles Lindbergh in Romansville in March, 1928. He and his friend, Henry Breckenridge, were forced to land in the heavy fog in a sister ship of the Spirit of St. Louis. Lone Eagle Road was named for this famous aviator.

Fortunately many historic landmarks have been preserved. The Humphrey Mar-

TriCentennial  
1682-1982  
chester county





with an old farm contraption, and Quakers aboard the Marshallton Friends Meeting parade float. Staff photos by Larry McDevitt.



# Marshallton was to be the countyseat

by Mike Shields  
staff writer

If it weren't for Richard Woodward's apples, West Bradford Township which recently celebrated its week in the county's Tricentennial observations, may have been the host of the county seat.

According to early-20th Century newspaper accounts, about 200 years ago, Woodward owned 1,000 acres of land in West Bradford from Cope's bridge over the Brandywine up the hill into Marshallton. He opposed the plan to make Marshallton the county seat, a choice that proponents defended because Marshallton was the geographic center of the county, which at the time included Delaware County.

"He wanted no court house there," the account noted, "because the county seat would bring families, and families would bring boys and the boys would steal his apples—and how could anyone raise apples in a town, to be sure! So the county seat was located where it now is, in the village of Turk's Head, the present West Chester."

Even though West Bradford does not contain the county seat, the municipality has more than its share of historical importance.

Incorporated in 1731 when Bradford was split into East Bradford and West Bradford, the township was first settled by English folk moving west from the settled regions in what is now Delaware County. By 1765, the township's population was predominantly English.

Richard Baker, John Young and Samuel Worth were the most important land owners in

1765, each owning about 400 acres. There were few servants in West Bradford, which draws its name from either Bradford, Yorkshire, on Bradford on the Avon, Wiltshire, in England.

Among the original landowners were several absentee landlords, many of whom never left England to see the fertile land in the New World. The southern part of the township was settled first because the land was better.

Richard Buffington, Bradford's first constable, was a resident of Upland (now Chester) before the arrival of William Penn on the "Welcome" in 1682. Buffington was probably the first white man to settle in the area.

Since the partition that created the Bradfords in 1731, there have been some alterations to the township's geography. More land, including that owned by Edward Brinton, was added to West Bradford around 1740 by court order. Part of the township was taken in 1849 to form Pocopson Township. And the border between East and West Bradford was changed in 1857 so that the Brandywine formed the boundary at or near Sugar's Bridge.

Some of the names of the original settlers are still common in the area today. Tax rolls from 1753 show settlers named Liggett, Clark, Milliken, Cole, Buffington, Woodward, Mullen, Wilson, Thornbry (sic), Martin, Few, Matthews, Millison, Hastings, Young, Sheward, Taylor, Cleaton, Marshall, Carny, Thornton, Sellers, Battin, Vernon, Tremble, Arnold, Hill, Cambell, Johnson, Whippo, Powell, Fling

and McManus.

Strasburg Road contributed much to the commercial development of the township. Strasburg Road and the Lancaster Pike were the two most used roads between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as teamsters and drovers made their way between the two cities.

Teamsters used teams of oxen to pull Conestoga wagons loaded with goods. Drovers herded cattle, hogs and even turkeys to markets in the eastern part of the state.

The wagon and livestock traffic along Strasburg Road was heavy, especially in dry weather, because tolls were collected along the Lancaster Pike.

Because the teamsters and drovers needed places to eat, sleep, drink and keep their wares and animals, public houses were established along Strasburg Road.

The Centre House, Marshallton, was erected by Joseph Martin in 1764, the year after the Turk's Head Tavern was built in West Chester. The Centre House was so named because it stood near the center of the county, which included Delaware County then. The Centre House was last used as a hotel in 1877. During the Revolutionary War, the British held rebel farmers from the area at Centre House.

The other major public house in Marshallton was the General Wayne Hotel, built in 1800 by Abraham Martin. After a series of attempts to be licensed, the hotel opened for business in 1822. It was later known as the Marshallton Hotel, and now as the Marshallton Inn.

Continued on Page 7



# dot W. Bradford landscape

shall House, dating back to 1733; Primitive Hall and the Embree House are a few of the historic homes still remaining in West Bradford. There are also church buildings that date back to the 1700s that are still in use. The Bradford and Romansville Friends are two of these churches.

Other historic buildings remain in the town of Marshallton. Approximately 65 structures date back to the early 18th and 19th centuries. The blacksmith shop, built in 1720, is probably the oldest existing building in the town. The Marshallton Inn and Marshallton Grange are two of the other historic structures still remaining. The village of Marshallton, through restoration and preservation, appears today much as it did in the 19th century.

## Rich in agriculture

West Bradford Township remains rich in agriculture — orchards and nurseries comprise a major portion of the industry in the area. Shannon Airport is also an

important aspect of West Bradford commerce. The Marshallton Inn is another thriving business in the area. Residents of West Bradford rely on Downingtown and Coatesville for the major shopping trips, although there are shops in the villages of Marshallton and Romansville.

It is obvious to the observer that West Bradford residents take pride in their community. There are several festivals, parades and days that are set aside to commemorate the township. The village of Marshallton hosts an annual Memorial Day parade and the Marshallton Triathlon, held the first Sunday in October.

On Sunday, the township will celebrate West Bradford Day with crafts, games, exhibits and a parade through Marshallton. The parade, beginning at 2 p.m. will be led by the Downingtown High School Marching Band and will conclude with a tree planting ceremony in commemoration of the Tricentennial. Food will be served by West Bradford Fire Co. and the

Marshallton Grange.

On Saturday, the Home and School Association of West Bradford Elementary School will sponsor a Giant Tailgate Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the Tricentennial. At 2 p.m., the West Bradford Township supervisors and the West Bradford Youth Association will dedicate a new athletic field located on Beacon Hill Road.

West Bradford is a township that has maintained a delightful mixture of old and new. Progress has not interfered with the rich heritage that is ingrained in the hearts of the residents. The area remains rich in natural resources and the tradition of Humphrey Marshall and his Botanical Gardens which has been kept alive through many generations. The pride of West Bradford's residents has preserved the history of the quiet township, enabling future generations to appreciate the rich heritage that is so much a part of West Bradford Township.



WEST BRADFORD

DAY '83

ROMANSVILLE



**SUNDAY JUNE 12**

**GAMES**

**1-5**

**CRAFTS**

**DISPLAYS**

**SALES**

**486-0866**

**FOOD**

**COME!**

**TAKE PART!**

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!**



# TriCentennial 1682-1982 chester county

TENTH EDITION

DISPATCH

MAY 1983



*Dr. Robert W. Miller (L), President of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, awards the George Washington Medal of Honor to the Chester County Tricentennial. Accepting on behalf of the Tricentennial are Commissioners Robert J. Thompson, Earl M. Baker, and Patrick C. O'Donnell.*

## Commissioners' Message

When the Tricentennial celebration began almost 18 months ago, it would have been impossible to predict the level of enthusiasm which has characterized the scores of events, ceremonies, and special occasions.

As Commissioners, it has been especially rewarding to witness this enthusiasm, still very much in evidence, undiminished after many months.

It was this sense of community spirit and pride to which the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge paid tribute when it awarded the Chester County Tricentennial its George Washington Honor Medal on April 25.

The nationwide awards competition has been an annual Freedoms Foundation event since the organization's founding in 1949. This year, over 2000 entries from across the United States competed in a total of 21 categories.

The Chester County Tricentennial received one of only seven awards presented nationwide in the category of government unit.

The award is both an honor to Chester County and a tribute to its citizens. It is especially meaningful in symbolizing the spirit of volunteerism which has helped to make the entire Tricentennial celebration such an outstanding success.

Long after the Tricentennial has drawn to a close, this community spirit and enthusiasm will continue as part of our county's heritage to future generations.

Robert J. Thompson, *Chairman*  
Earl M. Baker  
Patrick C. O'Donnell  
*Board of Commissioners*

## Tricentennial Round-Up

October 8 and 9

The Exton Square Mall, celebrating its 10th anniversary in Chester County, will host a "Round-Up" on October 8 and 9 to culminate the Tricentennial Community Recognition celebrations. The "Round-Up" has been planned as a final Tricentennial salute to Chester County's 73 municipalities, an opportunity to once again share local history with residents and neighbors.

All interested municipalities are invited to display historic artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, etc. during this two-day extravaganza. The Mall will provide exhibitors with tables, chairs, electrical hook-ups, and signs, all at no charge.

John Carroll, Marketing Manager for the mall, is very excited about the prospect of having displays from many of the county's municipalities together in one place. "We think that the Round-Up is a terrific end-of-the-Tricentennial event," Carroll said. "The Exton Mall is pleased to be a part of it."

According to Carroll, the Mall will schedule concerts and performances by top entertainers throughout the weekend and plans are underway for a giant birthday cake to commemorate the occasion.

The Tricentennial Round-Up promises to be a super send-off for Chester County's Tricentennial celebration.





*Dr. Robert Carlson, Chairman of the Tricentennial Executive Committee, is recognized during the award ceremonies at Freedoms Foundation for his leadership role in making the Tricentennial celebration an outstanding success. (See MESSAGE on Page 1)*

### West Bradford Day 1983

Plan to celebrate on Saturday, June 12, from 1—5 p.m. on the grounds of the Romansville Friends Meeting, corner of Strasburg and Shadyside Roads. Arts

and crafts, tours, square dancing and antique farm implement demonstrations will all be part of the celebration. For more information, contact Mike Orsborn at 269-8631.

West Bradford Day will be held on Sunday, June 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Romansville. Activities will include displays of old dolls, old and new quilts, residential arts and crafts, and antique farm equipment. There will be games for the children and refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in selling or displaying crafts, dolls, or quilts, should contact P. Anderson at 486-0886 or P. Pleatman at 436-5139.

## **WEST BRADFORD DAY '83** **SUNDAY, JUNE 12 1 to 5**

Romansville -- Corner Strasburg & Shadyside  
West Bradford Twp. Historical Committee

### **Plans For West Bradford Day '83**

include

- A Quilt Show -- old or your make
- Doll Show
- Old Tools & Farm Implements
- Collections of anything

**West Bradford Residents -- plan to take part**  
**Call P. Anderson 486-0866**











## Talk on history in W. Bradford

Paul Rodebaugh, local author and historian, will talk about West Bradford history at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23 in the township building, Poorhouse Road, West Bradford, in a program sponsored by the township's historical commission. Refreshments will be served.

## WEST BRADFORD HISTORY

With Paul Rodebaugh  
Local Author and  
Historian

WED. EVE SEPT. 23, 8 P.M. '84

Township Building  
Poorhouse Road

For NEW COMERS! For OLD TIMERS!

Refreshments

W. B. Historical Comm.

Mr. Paul Rodebaugh, an historian, will present a talk on historic meeting houses of Chester County at the April 12 meeting of the West Bradford Historical Commission. Originally scheduled for March 8, the meeting will begin at 8 p.m. at the West Bradford Municipal Building, 1535 Poorhouse Rd., Downingtown. For more information call 269-8631.

1984



# ANTIQUE & CRAFT SHOW

SPONSORED BY

WEST BRADFORD FIRE COMPANY

Sunday, June 2, 1985

10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

West Bradford Fire Company  
Marshallton, Pa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND SPACE RENTAL CONTACT:

Mr. Mike Orsborn at 269-8631  
or

Mr. Jack Hines at 696-7442



DLN June 1 1985

# Marshallton opens its doors tomorrow

History buffs from around the county will have a chance to get an inside look at a village which prides itself on its past when Marshallton opens some of its creaky doors to the public tomorrow afternoon.

Arts and crafts, historic documents and early American architecture will be displayed from 1 to 5 p.m. in the West Bradford village on Strasburg Road.

Sponsored by the West Bradford Historic Society and Marshallton Village Inc., a group founded to preserve the village's rich history, visitors will have a chance to leaf through the manuscripts and documents of Humphry Marshall, for whom the village was named.

Visitors on walking tours can look through the works of Marshall, a botanist who wrote the first book cataloging American forestry and shrubbery, and can look at a historic shed, built for housing horses at the village church.

**AMONG THE DOCUMENTS** on display will be newspaper accounts of aviator Charles Lindbergh's crash landing in West Bradford in 1928. Marshall's book will be displayed at the village museum, in the former grange hall.

The Marshallton Methodist church is conducting a collection to save the historic shed. Church members plan

to provide the labor.

"We all have the same ideas, saving and preserving what's there," said William Baldwin of Marshallton Village Inc. Baldwin said Marshallton Village Inc. owns the old Marshallton Elementary School and a village store which he hopes to open in the future to show what goods were available to residents in the last century.

"I have a large collection of items," Baldwin said. "I hope to put them in the building so that we can display them. We're trying to get people to save these things. I have hundreds of items in my own collection dating from about 1810 to 1900, things which were sold or displayed in a country store."

The 1765 Friends Meeting House in the west end of the town also will be open.

Sure to be a hot topic of conversation on the streets tomorrow will be the ongoing 'l' debate over the spelling of the historic village's name. Baldwin points proudly to the one-l spelling of his group, contemptuously calling the two-l spelling "modern." He said he has early documents proving the one-l spelling is historically the preferred spelling.

"But that's a whole other story," he said, with a laugh.

**Wanted:**  
West Bradford Twp.  
**ARTISTS**  
and  
**CRAFTSPERSONS**  
to  
**SHOW & SELL**  
**SUN., JUNE 2, 1985**  
West Bradford Day  
• Marshallton •  
Call:  
**486-0866**  
**269-8631**



# *West Bradford Day*



**HARRY AND DOROTHY PERDUE** of Marshallton (photo at left) relate the history of the 1765 Bradford Friends Meeting House in Marshallton to visitors on the walking tour yesterday. In the



# *delves into rich history*



Staff photo by Larry McDevitt

right photo, Bill Baldwin (right) of Marshalton Village Inc. shows his collection of goods and merchandise available to residents in the last century. West Bradford Day was spon-

sored by the township historical society and Marshalton Village Inc., a group founded to preserve the village's rich history.



# West Bradford celebrates its rural

*Among the attractions in the village of Marshallton is a museum devoted to country-store items.*

By Lita Solis-Cohen  
*Inquirer Antiques Writer*

This Sunday marks the 10th anniversary of West Bradford Day — an event celebrating the small-town charms of rural Chester County.

This is an area that hasn't changed very much in the last 150 years, an area where excitement may have peaked years ago, when fog forced Charles Lindbergh to land his plane on Emmon Way's farm on March 15, 1928.

West Bradford Day, held in Marshallton, a sleepy little village on the Strasburg Road (Route 162), is designed to stir up local pride.

"There are so many new people in

## ANTIQUES

the township who do not think of the past that we hold this day every year to remind them of our history," said Peg Anderson, who is working on the event.

The village of Marshallton, located in West Bradford Township, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. And the people who live in the old stone houses that line both sides of Strasburg Road don't want to change the village at all.

The town was named for Humphrey Marshall, a farmer and stone mason who wrote the first American book on botany, *Arbustum Americana*, a *Catalog of American Forest Trees*, published in Philadelphia in 1785. His stone farmhouse on the hill at the end of town belongs to the Chester County Historical Society, and though it is not open to the public, you can meander through what remains of an old arboretum surrounding it.

That is just one of the attractions

of West Bradford Day. From 1 to 5 p.m., visitors can walk around Marshallton with local guides, buy food supplied by the Marshallton Grange, buy crafts from local craftspeople, look over old farm equipment parked in the field by the school, visit the blacksmith's shop in the center of town and drop by the old Quaker Meeting House behind the long, green stone building that was once Albert P. Hall's General Store.

They also may take a look at the museum housing Bill Baldwin's collection of country-store items — which throws its doors open only on this one day each year. The collection is housed in the 1912 Guild Hall that Baldwin owns in the center of town.

In Baldwin's museum, there are old photographs of the Marshall house and other buildings in town, plus deeds and documents that make up the town archives. Old bonnets, hat boxes, dresses, flat irons, buttons, needles, seeds, pens, tobacco, gun powder and other necessities from an old general store fill counters and showcases.

Friday, Sept. 19, 1986 The Philadelphia Inquirer 37

## heritage

"I got the idea for the museum back in 1943, when I was collecting things for Henry du Pont. I decided (that) if he could have a big museum, I could have a little one," said Baldwin, who, with his wife, Lilla, has operated Baldwin's Book Barn on state Route 100 just outside West Chester for the last 43 years.

Baldwin has some rarities in his little museum. A large measuring wheel, more than seven feet in diameter and once used to measure road distances, stands at the top of the stairs at the entrance. Old broadsides on the wall advertise Smith's patented perforated undergarments and rag carpet by the yard. One old barrel still has its original colored label showing a view of Philadelphia around 1820 and noting that Theodore H. Apple, the cooper, was at Nos. 2 and 4 Gray's Alley between Front and Second Streets.

Three different 1928 newspapers describe Lindbergh's landing in Romansville, three miles to the west.

In 1965, Baldwin incorporated Marshallton Village Inc. (using the old spelling with only one "L") to collect

and preserve the relics, manuscripts and records of the town.

"I want to leave my collection to this foundation, and I hope we can raise the money to restore the Albert P. Hall General Store to the way it looked in a daguerreotype taken in 1860," Baldwin said.

In addition to Sunday's hours, Baldwin's museum can be visited by appointment. Call Baldwin's Book Barn at 696-0816.

For more information about West Bradford Day, call Peg Anderson at 486-0866 or Mike Osborne at 296-8631. If you go, take state Route 3 (Gay Street) through West Chester and bear left (west) at state Route 162 (Chestnut Street), which becomes Strasburg Road when it leaves town.

**SHOWS** Hibernia Park Antiques Fair, Coatesville, Chester County, Sat 9 a.m.-4 p.m. rain or shine. (From Rte 30 bypass, take Rte 82 north 2 miles to Cedar Knoll Rd, turn left, travel 1 1/4 miles to park entrance.) • Annual Devon Country Fair, Tailgate Antiques & Craft Fair, Devon Show Grounds, Rte 30, Devon, Sat 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**SALES** Antique tools, Ridge Fire Co., Rte 23, Spring City, Pa., (south of Pottstown between Rtes 100 & 724), Sat 10 a.m. • Jewelry, furniture & furnishings, Fine Arts Co., Philadelphia, Sat 10 a.m. • Gallery sale, Samuel T. Freeman's, Philadelphia, Mon-Wed 1 p.m. • First-floor sale, Freeman's, Philadelphia, Wed 10 a.m.





A tour waits to enter the blacksmith shop in Marshallton, one stop featured on West Bradford Day yesterday

Photo by Larry McDevitt

DAILY LOCAL NEWS, West Chester, Pa., Mon., Sept. 22, 1986



# Marshallton to open up its past

By ELIZABETH HUMPHREY  
(Of the Local News Staff)

A few years ago, Marshallton celebrated its 300th birthday since the days when William Penn's woodsmen cleared the sloping land for farming. Sunday the still-rural area will host an annual celebration initiated during the nation's bicentennial.

West Bradford Day has become a tradition.

Far from the hum and roar of the Chester County Restaurant Festival, the township will have its own festivities. The food might not be as exotic nor the crowds as gargantuan, but the activities will be a drawing card to the small village of Marshallton and an opportunity for distant neighbors to gather.

The festival will include a walking tour of Marshallton, booths by area craftspeople, a weaving demonstration, and an exhibit of memorabilia and antique farm implements.

**THE DAY HAS BEEN** organized by West Bradford Historical Commission which was formed by the township about two years prior to the bicentennial. Chartered as part of a plan for the celebration, the West Bradford committee planned the event for local residents. Its popularity has since drawn outsiders to the history and beauty of the area.

"We've had West Bradford Day ever since the bicentennial," said



Rekindling memories of the old smithy are (from left) Doris Rementer of Darby and Robert Ludwick, William H. Ludwick Jr. and Leah Johnson, all of Marshallton.

The four are the children of the late William H. Ludwick Jr., blacksmith at the Marshallton shop for about 30 years.

DLN  
Sept.  
'96

Peg Anderson, who has lived in the same house in Romansville for 45 years. The day has been held in the village of Romansville as well as Marshallton. Anderson is one of several coordinators for the event.

"The original purpose was to have people in the immediate vicinity become acquainted with the past," she said. "Now it's really to get people to come to Marshallton and look at the history and the old things."

## MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS

worked several years to qualify the village of Marshallton as a historic district. In the process, they learned much about its past, and West Bradford Day was a logical outlet of the knowledge gained. This year West Bradford Day will center on the west side of the village. The Blacksmith Shop, on Strasburg Road, will be open to visitors. Proprietor Mary Evans will sell antiques and handmade lampshades while the remainder of the shop, left in the manor of an old smith's forge,

will be open for viewing. Historical committee member Nancy Hill will exhibit a collection of Marshallton archives and memorabilia.

Longtime resident Harry Perdue will lead a walking tour of the village featuring the Humphrey Marshall house, including the noted early botanist's grove of trees.

Admission to the event is free. Visitors will be directed to parking off of Route 162 in Marshallton by West Bradford fire police.



# Marshallton 1986 shares its past

By LIZANNE SOBOLESKY  
(Of the Local News Staff)

The small, tranquil village of Marshallton came alive with names and artifacts from the past yesterday at the annual West Bradford Day on Strasburg Road.

About 500 people toured historic buildings, studied antique farm machinery and viewed a museum of West Bradford memorabilia, including a letter from Benjamin Franklin to botanist Humphry Marshall, for whom the town is named.

The community day has been held since about the time of the nation's bicentennial, said Nancy Hill, a member the West Bradford Township Historic Committee, an ad hoc committee of the sponsoring group, the West Bradford Historical Commission.

**THE DAY**, which has been held in both Romansville and Marshallton, was created to promote appreciation of the people and trades of the township's past, she said.

Marshallton, founded in 1737 by James Woodward, was primarily a

farming community, although most dwellers in the village had specific trades, such as blacksmithing or cabinetmaking, Hill said.

Hill, whose grandfather was a tinsmith, said Strasburg Road was often travelled by wagons and livestock in the 1700s and 1800s because it was parallel to Lancaster Pike.

Strasburg Road was a popular route because it was a dirt road which was easier for animals to cross and there was no toll, Hill said.

Hill was born in Marshallton and said as years pass the significance of the area increases.

"I never thought I'd get into anything like this," she said. "It grows on you. The more you hang around you realize the historic importance."

**HARRY PERDUE**, who has lived in the village for 83 of his 87 years, and his wife, Dorothy, led a tour of the meeting house, United Methodist Church, the blacksmith shop, museum and Old Congress Hall. He also had an exhibit of antique farm machinery dating back to the 1700s.

Perdue, who farmed for 37 years, said the day is meant to "give people an idea of old farm machinery," and to explain events of the past.

Mrs. Perdue said the buildings have interesting histories, such as the time the meeting house caught fire and residents threw snow on it and put it out. Burn marks still remain on the building, which is entirely in its original state.

William Baldwin's museum has a collection of West Bradford antiques and memorabilia, including a letter from Benjamin Franklin, clothes, pottery, tins and machinery which he accumulated over 30 years.

**BALDWIN, OWNER** of Baldwin's Book Barn on Rt. 52, said the letter from Franklin to Marshall is his most significant item. It was a letter of thanks for information Marshall had sent him.

Mary Evans, who has sold antiques in the Blacksmith's Shop for 21 years, said the day is important to her because it celebrates her ancestry.

"The day is meant to share the history of the village with other people," she said. "A lot of people are new to West Bradford and really don't know the history of where they live."

Evans' grandfather came to the town as a minister at the church on Strasburg Road.

Vic Halitsky moved to West Bradford Township eight years ago and said the day fulfills his interest in learning the history and passing it to his young children.

"It makes people realize there is a history of these towns. They are just not pretty places to visit," Halitsky said. "I think we tend to just ride past and look at the field-stone buildings."

He said it is vital to teach children this history. "If you don't tell them, they'll never understand why these towns are of historic significance and not just another town on the map."



still have the picture of me and my folks standing on the back of the train. The paper said that it was the first time that a whole town came out to see a ball player off. There were 18 residents in Romansville, and they were all there," Jefferis chuckled.

There were 67 other pitchers competing for the few openings on the Cardinals' staff that year. Jefferis had gotten early vibrations of the great Depression that was on its way when the Eastern Shore League folded. But the fall of 1929 brought even harder times.

"The Cardinals had 300 pitchers under contract, and were only using eight or nine. You had to win or you were out," Jefferis recalled.

Five of the youngsters at that spring training camp actually went on to the big leagues. Jim Turner, Eddie Mayo, Pep Young, Monte Weaver and Alan Strange all attended that 1930 camp.

"Later that year the Cardinals

gave me my release. I had never pitched a game for them," Jefferis noted.

So, the pitcher without a club hit the road again. He played with Binghamton, Williamsport and Allentown over the next couple of years.

"Leagues kept folding one right after another after '29. Things were a lot different for us then. We traveled on buses and trains instead of flying. I don't know if the players were better than they are today, but I think they were tougher.

"We had \$3.75 a day for meals instead of \$25 like they give you today. We had a lot more fun though. People didn't watch us so close," Jefferis pointed out.

In 1942, the United States went to war, and Jefferis entered the Navy. Three years later when he came out, he began scouting for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"That was when I signed Ludwick. He was a really promising young pitcher. But he broke his arm playing with some

kids from West Chester and a \$15,000 contract went down the drain," Jefferis recalled.

He never went back to playing ball. For a couple of years Jefferis managed the Bloomington, New Jersey club of the Pony League. After leaving the Dodgers, he also scouted a while for the Cleveland Indians.

In 1955 he retired from scouting, and until 1966 he owned the Marshallton Hotel.

He doesn't have much to do with baseball these days. Most of his souvenirs went to the Old Timers Association, who put them on display in the back room of Burton's Barbe Shop in Kennett.

And occasionally he comes out for banquets like this one.

"You know, Grover Cleveland Alexander once went to an old timers dinner. He said that the problem with these dinners was that they were so dull. There were too many old timers there, he said. You know, he was right," Jefferis quipped.



# Marker in quiet cemetery mute on enigma it protects

By JANE SEBOLD  
(Local News Correspondent)

As we have seen so grievously in our own time, the bones of presidents and their assassins are fated to rest forever in shrouds of speculation.

So it has been with Abraham Lincoln, and his murderer, John Wilkes Booth, since that fateful evening in Ford's Theatre exactly 110 years ago this month. Decade has followed decade, and each has produced mountains of document and theory about the plot to kill Lincoln, the actual deed, Booth's escape, the weeping nations gathered for the mournful funeral train, Booth's ultimate capture and death, and the trial of his co-conspirators. Large events have become blurred, tiny incidents have become significant, and information has popped up in the most unlikely places. With each passing year, more of the picture unfolds.

The winds blew cold over East Bradford Cemetery in Marshallton this April and the purple phlox hugged the weedy grass with arctic tenacity. Over in the farthest corner, back by a saggy mesh fence, a plastic lily twirled around on its stem and a small American flag flapped silently by a granite marker.

The marker reads: "Nathan Simms, 1851-1934. The slave boy who helped Booth escape the night of Lincoln's assassination,

but told the Union soldiers the next day the direction Booth took, thus aiding in his capture."

Little is known of Simms. He appears in none of the history books, his name cannot be found in indexes. Who would have bothered to take note of a 14-year-old black slave's actions amid the swelling confusion that April day in 1865?

Simms was bound out to Mrs. Mary E. Surratt, the 45-year-old widow in whose house the conspirators often gathered. Tough she probably was not directly involved in the assassination, Mrs. Surratt was one of four people hanged for the murder in July 7, 1865, after a military trial that paid little heed to judicial nicety.

In an interview Simms later recalled that Mrs. Surratt "had a disposition of an unpleasant nature; was very fond of riding horseback and exhibited no dislike for wine. She could handle a rawhide with vigor and it always come upon our backs so unexpectedly."

## Frequent Hostess

Simms said Mrs. Surratt entertained a great deal. "Amongst the visitors was John Wilkes Booth who was very intimate with her son, John Surratt. From the former I received the first money I could call my own. He was a helpless man and had to be waited on a great deal. They were 'thick as thieves' and wherever one would be seen the other was

sure to be along."

John Surratt eventually escaped to Canada and was finally apprehended in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1867. He was returned to the United States and was brought to trial only to be set free by a hung jury.

Simms told of events leading to the President's murder. "For about two months before the assassination of President Lincoln, Booth was at the Surratt mansion steady. During this time a number of gentlemen visited him there and had private talks with him. Afterwards I learned the strange men were members of the Southern Confederacy.

"A few days before the shooting of the President occurred Mrs. Surratt and I went into Washington. We visited a gunsmith's store and purchased nine or 12 pistols. They were put into a small coffin, furnished by an undertaker, who placed it in a hearse. The soldier guards of Eastern Branch Bridge of course thought it was a genuine funeral and did not make any attempt at searching."

Simms says Booth and Surratt ate supper and left the house together on the night of the murder. "About midnight the former returned and soon I heard Mrs. Surratt clap her hands and exclaim: 'I'm glad the old Rebel is dead'—meaning the noble Lincoln. That same night I helped Booth into the saddle on his horse and he rode down the pike as if a whirlwind was pursuing him."

## Full Of Soldiers

When he opened the shutters the next morning, Simms related, "I was surprised to see the piazza and yard full of soldiers. A general advanced and asked me some questions about Booth, which I answered. In a short time my mistress and everybody else about the place were taken into Washington."

There are portions of Simms' story that conflict with other accounts, but his part in the events of April 14, 1865, are on file in the War Department along with his photograph. Local archives contain little information about him. He is said to have been employed by farmer John Hoopes in East Nottingham township during the '80s, and to have lived in the Norman Roberts home in Northbrook for a time.

Newspaper accounts tell us that Simms was married twice: first to Julia Coulson of Kennett Square in 1883, next to Sarah Ann Thomas of Oxford in 1894. There are two versions of his burial. One indicates that he was buried in the potters field outside the Chester County Home in Em-

breeville. Another tells of his burial in Marshallton where the granite headstone is today.

Here members of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States gathered last week to lay a wreath on the grave of Nathan Simms. H. Sinclair Mills Jr., a resident of Unionville and a member of the Legion, had learned of Simms in a story about the Roberts home in the Daily Local News.

Mills says Simms is the kind of patriot the Loyal Legion likes to honor. "Throughout history credit goes to the generals when in fact the common man has made equal contributions. Here you have a 14-year-old slave, in a nation that is cut in half by racial issues, doing something that could have meant his life."





Photos by Larry McDevitt

Amanda and Neil Carpenter sit in the grange hall















## County Day stops to be highlighted

DLN  
8-30-  
1987

The next five villages to be featured in the Sunday Local News will highlight stops on the 1987 Chester County Day tour. The tour will be held Saturday, Oct. 3.

Chester County Day is the annual house tour of interesting and historic places around Chester County. Proceeds from the day benefit Chester County Hospital, West Chester.

This year's tour begins in Marshallton, runs through Unionville, Kennett Square, West Grove, and Doe Run, with excursions to Oxford, Landenberg, Fairville, and Chadds Ford.

The houses will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include a map. Bus tour tickets are \$20. For more information call 431-6365.

The

## Marshallton: How village grew up

By JANE E. DORCHESTER  
(Local News Correspondent)

It has been said that most villages have three things in common: they either have a tavern and/or a (general) store and/or a post office.

If one were to hold Marshallton up to this measure, one would find that it was not an ordinary village. First of all, the village did not grow up around one of the above; instead, it grew up around Bradford Meeting House.

It did have, at its inception, a tavern and a (blacksmith) shop, along with the meeting house.

By the early 1800s, it had two taverns, one general store and a post office, as well as the Bradford Meeting House. At its zenith, it had two taverns, two general stores, two places of worship, a post office, a school and at least one, if not two "halls" for social and cultural gatherings, plus a surprising number of businesses and shops.

IN 1713, Thomas Arnold and Edward Clayton each bought a part of a tract of land in Bradford which had been surveyed for Edward Beeson. Arnold received 198 acres, Clayton, 196 acres. In 1724, Richard Woodward acquired 1,000 acres surveyed for Daniel Smith. Marshallton would arise on parts of these three tracts, where they all joined. In 1731, Bradford was divided between East and West Bradford, Marshallton would fall in West Bradford. In 1737, James Woodward, the grandson of Richard, settled as the first inhabitant within the boundaries of present day Marshallton. When he moved there, he found that a log or frame Quaker Meeting House had already been erected in 1729 on land purchased from Edward Clayton. In 1748, James Woodward bequeathed a part of his portion of the 1,000 acres to his son, Robert, a blacksmith.



Blacksmith Shop in the heart of the village of Marshallton

Staff photo by Larry Mc



**IT WAS** around this time that the stone blacksmith shop was built. Around 1764, Joseph Martin acquired a tract of land within the borders of present day Marshallton. He had erected on it, some say by Humphry Marshall, a large stone house facing the Strasburg Road. In 1767, he received his first tavern license for the place which he named "The Centre House." In 1765, the present stone Meeting House was built, and, together with the tavern and the smithy, a village was born.

It took awhile for the village to gather momentum, but once it did, it proceeded to grow by leaps and bounds. In 1771, William England Sr., bought the stone smithy. In 1773, Humphry Marshall built himself a handsome stone house on the rise overlooking the small village which, at that time, was known as "Bradford Meeting," after the Meeting House.

**BY 1798**, the village was large enough for the smithy to have a saddler's shop attached to it. And by 1805, it was larger still, which warranted the establishment of the ninth post office in Chester County at Marshallton. The office gave the village its first and only official name, after Humphry Marshall, who had died in 1801. Dr. Andrew Bailey was appointed the first Post Master.

In 1809, William England Jr., saddler, and Thomas England, his brother, smithy, bought the old blacksmith shop from their father. In 1812, Methodism was introduced into Marshallton by the Rev. Alban Hooke.

By 1814, the Strasburg Road was so busy that the Centre House was not large enough to accommodate all the travelers on it. So, Abraham Martin acquired a one-acre piece of land, which, at the time, was on the outskirts of the village.

**HE BUILT A** stone house with the idea of running it as a tavern to accommodate the overflow from the Centre House, further up the road. It wasn't however, until 1822, that he finally was able to get a tavern license for his hotel, "The General Wayne."

Marshallton early acquired a reputation for mischief, possibly because the residents of Marshallton seemed to be rather tolerant of such antics. In 1823, Isaac Carpenter's hen roost was torn down overnight by some pranksters. Carpenter's reprimand took shape in the form of an advertisement in the newspapers which stated that if whoever tore the roost down, put it back up, Carpenter would not press charges. A favorite Halloween Night prank with the villagers was to secure all the wagons of the village and leave them in odd, out of the way, and, even, eccentric places for their owners to go and find the next day.

**BY THE 1820S**, Marshallton had become a desirable place to live and work (in spite of the pranks). From this time until the early 1900s, properties were changing hands regularly, landlords were advertising for renters, and, at least until the end of the 19th century, new buildings were erected and old ones remodelled to accommodate new stores and services. By 1825, another smithy had been built, close to the General Wayne Hotel. In 1826, William England Jr., sold the old smithy to Eusebius Townsend. In 1827, George Andress took over the old store that had been occupied by Andrew Bailey, the first postmaster, and made it into a tobacco business. He also became postmaster that year. In 1829, the first Methodist Episcopal Church was completed. In 1831, George Martin became postmaster and Andress decided to move on, which led the owner of the store building, Isaac Carpenter, who also owned the Centre House, to advertise it for sale.

**IN THE EARLY 1830s**, a spate of changes occurred which precipitated the growth of the village. In 1833, the smithy changed hands twice, Townsend sold it to Joseph Hickman,

and, he to Moses Marshall. In that same year, the Centre House and 20 acres of land were put up for sale. And the General Wayne was also put up for sale. Adjoining the General Wayne property were a stone storehouse, two dwellings, a blacksmith shop and a tailor shop, all of which was owned by Abner Martin. In 1838, the first stone schoolhouse was built in Marshallton. With the school came the feeling that it was high time Marshallton indulged in some culture. It had always been known for hospitality, now it was time for some culture and some social service work, as well.

**FROM THE 1830s** on, the following organizations were funded in Marshallton, some of them have since ceased to exist, others are still continuing today:

The West Bradford Lyceum, Marshallton Lyceum, Marshallton Women's Christian Temperance Union, Sons and Daughters of Liberty, various Marshallton bands, Marshallton Horse Protective and Petty Theft Association, Marshallton Horse Club, Marshallton Literary and Town Hall Association, Marshallton Social Circle, Needlework Guild, Order of Independent Americans — Farmer's Council 953, Marshallton Automobile Protection Association, Kings' Daughters Order, Independent Order of Good Templars, Bradford Literary Society, Marshallton Literary Society (Circle), Brandywine Social Club, Chester County Hospital Auxiliary,

**IN 1839**, Abner Martin tried, again, to sell the General Wayne property. He succeeded and in 1840, the General Wayne became Neal Hoopes' property. In that same year, Young and Miller advertised that they were selling "New dry goods, groceries, spices, drugs, medicines, tinware, cedarware and iron mongery" at their Marshallton Store. In 1841, the General Wayne was for sale, again, this time dividing the property into a total of 10 lots, among which were the hotel, a smithy, a tailor shop, a log house and some vacant lots. The hotel was not sold until 1844. In that year, George Maxton began renting the old smithy from Moses Marshall.

Starting in the 1850s, Marshallton would suffer a number of outbreaks of various diseases. In 1854, scarlet fever swept through the village, and, in the 1880s, whooping cough and the measles broke out so virulently that the Marshallton School had to be closed.

**IN 1854**, Hayes Jackson, who ran the wheelwright and blacksmith shop next to the General Wayne, advertised it for sale or exchange. He bought the dwelling, cabinetmaker, coach and blacksmith shops of William R. Chambers later in the year. In 1857, a fire, not the first in the village, broke out, burning the buildings next to Dr. Moses Marshall's residence, and doing some damage to the Marshall place. In 1858, the General Wayne Hotel changed hands and names. It became known as "The Marshallton Hotel." By 1859, the village had decided it needed a town hall. And no wonder, the amount of building, remodeling and changing of hands going on within its bounds between the 1840s and the 1860s warranted some sort of central meeting place for citizens. In 1866, Job Hayes' barn was destroyed by fire.

**HAYES HAD JUST** sold the property to Marshall Ingram, so he agreed to knock the price of the barn off the overall price for the property. After July 1868, the Mail Stage was routed from West Chester to Downingtown via Marshallton. This would be the last time transportation would deliberately come to Marshallton's door. With the coming of the railroad, the tide would start to turn against Marshallton.

But, by the 1870s, Marshallton had hit her stride: improvements were made to the Marshallton Methodist Church, the congregation having grown large enough to support such endeavors. In 1871, the Knights of Pythias formed a Marshallton Chapter. In 1872, Daniel Miles completed his new Hall, the first town hall in Marshallton, fulfilling a long desired need of the citizens of the area.





view of the village from the pump at the Marshalton Inn

IN 1873, the public hall had an addition made to it, but a new hall was already needed. In 1874, a movement started to buy and install coal oil street lamps, this movement eventually died out. In that same year, the only public hall in Marshalton was sold. And Thomas Temple, postmaster, sold his store and dwelling to Robert B. Lilly. Lilly became the next postmaster. In 1875, Alice Marshall, Moses' widow, sold the old smithy to George Maxton, the tenant. In 1876, the Knights of Pythias Hall, the second town hall, was built.

**Socially, it was  
usual in old days  
to the visit village**



# At the hub of the town was the Friends meeting

Marshallton is unusual in that the village grew up around a place of spiritual worship, rather than the usual place of spirituous worship. In 1716, an application was made to Chester Quarterly Meeting by members of the Society of Friends, who lived between the forks of the Brandywine, to meet during the winter months some place near William Marshall's residence. The application was denied.

In 1719, Newark (now Kennett) Monthly Meeting acquainted Chester Quarterly Meeting with a request by members living in and around the forks of the Brandywine to have a meeting of worship every other first and fifth day during the winter. This request was allowed. After three years, Newark made a request known to Chester that these same folks wanted to meet in the summer, as well as the winter. This request was allowed.

IN 1725, Newark asked permission, on behalf of the residents of the forks of the Brandywine, to allow them to meet every first and fifth day, except during the Preparative Week. Permission was granted.

After 10 years, the Quakers living in and around the forks of the Brandywine were allowed to build themselves a Meeting House. In 1726, the first Meeting House for Bradford Friends was built. It probably was made of logs or frame and was built on or near the northeast corner of Abraham Marshall's land. By 1729, the membership had grown so much that a new Meeting House was called for. Land was purchased from Edward Clayton and a new log Meeting House was erected on the present day graveyard.

In 1737, the Independent Bradford Monthly Meeting was established, with Richard Woodward as Elder.

UNTIL THIS time, Bradford Meeting had been a branch of Newark (Kennett) Monthly Meeting. In 1765, with an ever increasing membership, the present stone Meeting House was built. The old one was removed and used as a stable for years. At this time, the Friends Burial Ground found a final resting place, behind the present Meeting House.

In 1788, the roof of the Meeting House caught fire from a defective stove pipe. The roof and upper floor were badly damaged, but the body of the building was saved by snow blowing in the windows, with a little help from the Friends. The roof was immediately replaced. Today, vestiges of the fire can still be seen.

All was quiet in the village, spiritually speaking, until 1812, when the Rev. Alban Hooke made his appearance in town, preaching Methodism.

THE QUAKERS accepted their new neighbors quietly, and by 1827, a Union Sunday School was organized in the Friends Schoolhouse, which had been built sometime after the Stone Meeting House. The school encompassed Friends and Methodists. The Friends agreed to allow audible prayer as long as the Methodists refrained from

singing. The Methodists agreed to that concession and the Union School continued for many years.

Until 1829, the Methodists had been meeting in private homes, barns and outdoors. In that year, they refurbished a wheelwright shop into a place of worship, in anticipation of the erection of their first church. The stone Methodist Episcopal Church was completed later in the year and dedicated by Rev. Levi Scott, who went on to become a Bishop. At this time, the M.E. Church at Marshallton was an extension of the West Chester Church.

IN 1840, Marshallton was taken from West Chester and put on a "circuit." This meant that one preacher serviced several churches in several different towns and villages, which allowed him to preach at Marshallton only about once a month.

By the 1870's, improvements were needed at the M.E. Church. Fortunately, the congregation was willing to meet those needs. Meanwhile, the village had been experiencing a need for a cemetery for several years. The Friends were always willing to allow members of other religions to use their burial ground. But, they had strict rules about the use of grave markers. They were totally against marking graves in any way, shape or form. This was simply an extension of their belief in living a plain and simple life. They carried this conviction, not only to the grave, but over it as well.

IN 1871, a six-acre plot of ground was bought for the purpose of laying out another cemetery. A portion of the six acres was sold, and the rest was used to establish the Bradford Cemetery. The first grave dug was for Dr. Moses Marshall, one of the committee members who had created the cemetery. He was buried in 1871.

By this time, Marshallton had acquired a reputation for religious tolerance. In 1877, the West Chester Presbyterian congregations established a Sabbath School at the Knights of Pythias Hall for the summer. This summer Sabbath School continued for many years.

In 1879, the sheds and stable at the Friends Meeting were rebuilt, maybe in anticipation of the increase in attendance at the Meeting House during the 1880s. The large attendance brought about some much needed improvements to the Meeting House itself.

IN 1883, the roof of the Meeting House, for the second time, was burned off. The damage done, this time, was considerably less than the first time. A new slate roof was installed, as soon after the fire as possible, by A.L. Smith. Meanwhile, the Methodist Church was taken off the "circuit" for good, and a permanent pastor was appointed. In 1885, the Presbyterian Sabbath School started holding winter classes as well as summer.

—JANE DORCHESTER





Much of the activity in Marshallton centered around the Friends Meeting House

## Founder was son of settler

In 1697, Abraham Marshall arrived in Chester County. In 1707, he settled in West Bradford and built a stone house where, in 1722, his son, Humphry, was born. Humphry became a mason, the family trade. He had very little formal education, but, his interest was aroused in botany, possibly by close association with his cousin, John Bartram, the Philadelphia botanist. In the course of his life, he filled many public offices and was a prominent member of Bradford Friends Meeting.

In 1773, he built himself a handsome stone house overlooking the small village then called Bradford Meeting. It was at this house that he indulged his interest in botany. He planted extensive gardens filled with specimens of trees, shrubs and plants from all over the then known world. The remains of this arboretum are still growing on the property.

IN 1785, Joseph Cruikshank of Philadelphia, printed Marshall's "Arbustum Americanum; or, The American Grove," which was an account of the trees and shrubs of this country. It is supposed to be the first indigenous essay on botany written and printed in the New World. In 1788, a French edition was issued.

In 1791, in Schreber's addition of the "Genera Plantarum," a genus of American plants belonging to the family of Compositae was dedicated to Humphry and Moses Marshall by being given the name of "Marshallia."

By the early 1770s, Marshall had become a member of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture and the American Philosophical Society.

In 1801, Humphry Marshall died. He bequeathed his house to his nephew, Dr. Moses Marshall, who had lived with him and helped him with his botanical studies. Moses was a good practical botanist who worked, with his uncle, on the "Arbustum Americanum."

IN 1813, Moses Marshall died and left the house to his two sons. One of them, Humphrey, eventually acquired his brother's interest in the property. In 1880, Humphrey Marshall died and his executors sold the place, in 1881, to William G. Embree. In 1884, Embree sold the house to Robert W. Lilly, a storekeeper.



# MARSHALTON

W. BRADFORD TWP

Scale 400 ft. to the Inch.





# West Bradford official details ordinance for historic district

By JOHN ADDYMAN  
Of The RECORD Staff

In a rare town meeting attended by 50 residents and the majority of both the planning commission and the board of supervisors, West Bradford Township aired its new Historic District legislation last night.

The proposed ordinance, which has not yet gone before the supervisors for the initial public meeting, was read and discussed to get some reaction from citizens.



DAVE DAVIS

After working one and a half years on the project, the Historic Commission, an advisory group of the planning commission, has come up with an acceptable draft to "create a historic district for the village of Marshallton and the immediate environment."

## General Area

The district roughly parallels Route 162, Strasburg Road, from Copes Bridge to the junction of Marshallton-Thorndale Road. As David Davis, chairing the meeting, explained, the Comprehensive Plan for West Bradford, in one of its charges, decreed that some of the land deep in historical character be retained and preserved, especially in the Marshallton area.

Davis said there was "nothing revolutionary or new" about the establishment of historic districts, and that they were "living parts of the community." He cited examples in Georgetown, D.C., New Orleans, Charleston, S.C. and Savannah, Ga.

The enabling legislation which came out of Harrisburg is Act 167, and it empowers local communities to establish historic districts after they have been defined and surveyed, with the proper ordinances drawn up.

"Work must now go on to the supervisors, who enact the ordinance," said Davis. "Then, on to the state historical commission for certification. That enables the supervisors to appoint a Board of Architectural Historical Review."

West Bradford's zoning map

historic district, supported by a set of new ordinances which would add some steps to the process of altering, building additions to, razing or demolishing buildings within the district.

"For a long time, historical preservation has meant putting 10,000 brass plaques on beds that Washington supposedly slept in — today, historical preservation means much more," said Davis.

## Perspectives

Marshallton was originally

two land grants from William Penn, owned by Donald Smith and Mary Pennington. The stone which marks the boundary line still exists.

At one point, in the mid-1700s, there were three buildings in the village, and one of them is still there — the Bradford Friends Meeting House, built in 1763 and still hosting services.

The town got its name when Martinsville wasn't acceptable to the post office (there were  
(Please turn to Page Three)

## Residents debate Marshallton plan

By JOHN ADDYMAN  
Of The RECORD Staff

It's a collision that has occurred in other municipalities which have tried to do the same thing.

The Village of Marshallton, more specifically, West Bradford Township, wants to do everything it can to preserve a slice of Chester County that has remained mostly intact for more than 100 years.

Last night the Historic Commission met with residents. The order of business was to explain a Historic District ordinance which would encompass Marshallton and its immediate environs, visible from the middle of Strasburg Road.

Some people liked the idea, supporting the Historic Com-

mission about what kind of restrictions would be imposed with the new zoning.

At least one man didn't like it.

## Alterations?

During the question period, Pat Costello, who owns a store down the street from the West Bradford Fire Hall where the meeting was being held, asked if the ordinance had any effect on planned alterations for a building, or additions, or cosmetic changes.

David Davis, chairing the Historic Commission and the session, said that any alterations which would normally require a building permit would fall within the purview of the Historic District ordinances.

A Board of Historical Architectural Review would be



## Residents debate merits of plan for Marshallton historic district

(Continued from Page One)

paneled to deal with such cases, Davis advised. That board would make a recommendation on the building plans.

"Then it would only come into play where normal application for a permit would be needed?" asked Costello.

"Yes," agreed Davis, "the only grey area is porches...on a lot of buildings, because of their significant character and closeness to the road, I feel they would be required (for review) by ordinance. But your painting, putting in windows, that's not affected."

"It's not our intent," continued Davis, "to regulate minute architectural details. People in Marshallton have always had a pride in their homes and their village."

There were both advantages and disadvantages to the new zoning, Davis thought. He said the new restrictions placed on home and property owners "really sustain the amenities of living in an area." There was "an impact on resale value," which he described as being as much as 100 percent above the same land or the same style house in an area not historically-zoned. He used as comparison sites he had seen himself in Savannah, Ga., and Georgetown, D.C.

### Intangible Value

"It's an intangible value," he said, "something different by living in a house in a Historic District over the same house somewhere else. The market pays for location and stability. I've been seeing, for several months, real estate ads which list homes in 'historic Marshallton,' which, I think, runs as far east as Unionville and as far west as West Chester."

Davis said that in Georgetown, specifically, property sold for "three or four times" what similar ground or buildings were going for in the surrounding area.

"Land bought in a Historic District almost always is developed with the constraints

of the district...there has been no trouble in Pennsylvania at all. And, as the development increases, demand for houses spills over into adjacent areas." He cited the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia as an example.

Funding would be more readily available to homeowners ready to renovate — as much as 50 to 60 percent coming from the state. Commercial enterprises, if the Marshallton Historic District is accepted and accredited by the National Registry, could fall in for federal monies as well.

### The Other Side

But Davis admitted this was "another imposition of government...although we've tried to make it very palatable."

Costello asked: "How many families are going to be affected by this? Do we have a 'Yes' or a 'No' as to whether it's going to be done — or is it just going to be done?"

Davis told him the board of supervisors would hold public meetings on the zoning map overlays and the new ordinances. He also stated the Marshallton Historic District has been a part of the township's Comprehensive Plan.

"It is unique," he added, "and I feel the people who live here will have the ear of the township government."

Bob Crawford asked if the whole thing would be adopted in

May. Davis told him the process would start then, but the ultimate certification as a historic district was up to the state.

"What if the legality if the situation is challenged?" Crawford asked.

Davis asked him if he would be challenging it, but Crawford affirmed that was not what he said.

"We didn't do anything illegally," said Davis.

"I certainly don't want you to tell me what I can build," said Crawford. "You're going to have five people tell me how to build. More bureaucracy..." He wanted the opinion of Supervisors Paul Dougherty and Stephen Hoyt, who were present.

Dougherty said, at the moment, he didn't have an opinion until he had heard from everyone.

"Marshallton has been here 200 years," Crawford told him. "You don't know how much protection you're going to need."

"We don't know what you're going to do in the next two years," said Dougherty.

### Satisfied Customer

George Mershon, who owns the Marshallton Inn, rose to say that he had been in three towns "that have put this in...my experience was that everyone was happy the way it worked out. My home and the Inn are on

the National Register," he added, telling Crawford directly that he had many more restrictions applicable to his property than anyone in Marshallton would have under the historic district legislation proposed.

"The restrictions they're implying will benefit you in the long run," said Mershon.

"I don't want any restrictions," said Crawford.

Mershon said the listing on the National Registry "has worked to my advantage and to the advantage of my product. It's also been my pleasure to experience all the ancillaries."

"The ordinance does not say you can't develop your property," Cathy Davis told Crawford. "This is worth more to you. You may have to spend an hour more at the township building. There are some restraints that are for the common good."

"I've lived here 37 years; I'm a lifelong resident," said Crawford. "My wife is a Matlack, and her family goes back to the time of William Penn in this area. We like things the way they are."

"We'd like the people of this village to appreciate the village the way it is today," said Chairman Davis.

"I'm sure your intentions are good," said Crawford, "but good intentions don't always come out that way."



# Historic area

West Bradford is breaking new ground in the area of historic preservation.

Township officials are considering an ordinance which would establish Marshallton as an historic district. Marshallton is not a museum — it is a viable community which has been able to preserve some of its distinctive characteristics.

Residents apparently want to preserve their community without turning it into a museum. They are investigating a procedure which could be adopted by several other Chester County communities.

So far, township officials have done their homework. There has been no great push to force the community into something it may not want, but rather a concerted effort on the part of the residents to seek a means to preserve the village they love.

Designation of Marshallton as an historic district will preserve the village for its residents and visitors. It will, as proven in other communities, increase property values once a system to enforce standards goes into effect.

The effort is being done in a very professional and democratic fashion. Studies into the history of the community have been made, the proposed ordinance has been and will be carefully studied and the residents of Marshallton are participating directly in the decision-making process.

Designation of the historic district could provide a major breakthrough which can, in turn, be followed by other county communities.

*The*

**RECORD**



# Historic area

Establishing an historic district within a community is not as easy as simply passing an ordinance.

West Bradford officials — supervisors and members of the Historic Commission — have discovered that plans for making the village of Marshallton an historic district have led to some thorny questions from residents.

Last week, the commission met to discuss several of the questions which have been raised and to prepare themselves for a May 29 meeting with the supervisors concerning the ordinance.

The questions, and in some cases the rumors, have to be discussed in an open forum so that the residents of Marshallton are convinced the historic district will benefit the community. It should be emphasized that the Historic Commission has been quite open about the Marshallton proposal and is not likley to go leaping into the historic district without having the firm support of the community.

The concept of an historic district is not unique, it has worked well in other areas of the country. There are examples and precedents which can be cited.

West Bradford has an exceptionally high-quality local government staffed with people who are concerned and progressive but also dedicated to the protection of individual property rights.

Other communities which are considering similar actions will be watching how the West Bradford officials deal with the issues raised by residents. It is hoped that everything can be resolved and the village can become an historic district.

Meanwhile, it is healthy that the questions have been raised and the answers have started coming.

*The*

MAY

1979

**RECORD**

(A Politically Independent Newspaper)

More Than Seventy Years in The Public Service

Published Every Other Week Except Sunday and January 1st



# Dialogue begins on Marshallton ordinance

By JOHN ADDYMAN  
Of The RECORD Staff

It won't be until May 29 that West Bradford's Historic District Ordinance making the village of Marshallton a special area will be the subject of a public meeting, but the dialogue has already begun in earnest.

The township, upon recommendation from the planning commission, will undertake the

hearing of comments from residents and property owners on May 29 pertaining to an ordinance which will make Marshallton a Historic District.

On April 25, the historic committee of the planning commission gave the ordinance its first airing during an informational meeting. The supervisors will undertake discussion preparatory to passing

the ordinance.

## Many Questions

"It's very fair to say the comments we have heard so far have caused us to pause and think," said Supervisor Chairman Paul Dougherty last night. He said since the April 25 meeting he had received numerous phone calls, and has heard "many questions posed."

"We're endeavoring to answer

those questions by asking the experts," Dougherty said.

"We'd sooner see it die a natural death," said Bob Crawford, who also spoke out during the April session. "We have a big stake in this."

"We all do," said Dougherty.

Crawford wanted to know if the ordinance would be read in its present form on May 29.

"Yes," said Dougherty, "then we will either change or modify it or do what we have to do to get a meeting of minds."

Crawford, noting Dougherty's previous statements about some reservations the supervisors have with the present form of the historic district ordinance, felt it was "a waste of time to advertise it in its present form."

He wanted to know if the supervisors could kill the ordinance entirely on May 29.

"Yes," said Dougherty, who noted that if there were any substantial changes or revisions, it would have to be re-advertised and another meeting held.

## Just In Village?

Bob Siter asked why the

historic district was "strictly in Marshallton?"

Dougherty spoke about the Marshallton vicinity as having "the richest historical and architectural quaintness," adding that the historic district was not a zoning change, because it "does not effect the use of the land at all — the use will remain the same as it is now."

Siter argued that because there were many historical homes in West Bradford but outside of Marshallton, "a lot of people should be interested in this."

Dougherty agreed, but said: "I don't think you can put your arms around it all the first time."

"This has a lot of merits," Siter said, "but everyone who has an old home should be in it." Again, Dougherty agreed.

Supervisor Stephen Hoyt, Dougherty noted, will not take any part in the ordinance passage or defeat because he has property within Marshallton.

Crawford said the ordinance would effect some of the older

residents of Marshallton proper — people who might not come out to a meeting at night in the township building.

"How are we going to get them out?" he asked. "Why not move the meeting to us?" Dougherty agreed that is was possible for a Saturday afternoon session to be held in the village.

Supervisor George Graham suggested that residents who couldn't make a meeting were always welcome to communicate with the board by letter.

After the meeting, Dougherty said some of the questions raised by property owners were:

"Will taxes go up with property values in a historic district?"

"Do we need a permit to paint our homes?"

"Why is the historic district configured to size?"

"Is there any provision in the ordinance for a disaster (in relation to tearing down, razing, demolishing or rebuilding a damaged home in the district)?"



# Marshallton: Commission answers questions

By JOHN ADDYMAN 5-11  
Of The RECORD Staff 79

Marshallton has been the same town for almost 200 years.

Now, residents are worried that the Historic Commission and the West Bradford supervisors are trying to change it.

By keeping it the same.

If the logic of the situation escapes you, recall that within the last three weeks the township historic commission has held a public meeting to air a new "Historic District" for the village of Marshallton.

And, since that time, some

people have been fanning the fires of distrust for government, imposition by outsiders and invasion of private property.

## Valuable Lesson

Dave Davis, chairman of the historic commission, has been a little shocked by the controversy, and has some learned some valuable lessons about local government.

Last night, the commission met to discuss strategy for the upcoming May 29 meeting when the supervisors will put the ordinance on the table. The commissioners were gathered to exchange the

horror stories and rumors they'd heard in recent days.

Some of the better ones:

"Our taxes are going to go up four times, we heard it from the courthouse." Absolute crockery say the commissioners. Property values may rise, but the township is seeking to petition tax assessors for a favored standing because of the historic district's nature.

"Marshallton is going to be like a Williamsburg." No way says the commission. Nobody has to open their home or put up with any stranger seeking to look at the structure. The town will remain — in ap-

pearance — much as it is. Nothing else is different.

## No Regulations

"When the historic district comes in, we won't be able to do anything to our homes." Davis answered this one himself: "You don't need a building permit to paint your house, or change your windows or put on a new roof — even aluminum siding — and the Board of Architectural Historical Review doesn't regulate any of that."

Davis went on to emphasize that the existing zoning remains in effect. There are still clearly-delineated commercial and R-1

residential zones.

"The ordinance doesn't say you can't build something," said Davis. "It doesn't say you can't tear something down, but what you rebuild will be in the character of the community."

Nancy Hill, a member of the commission, asked if an old building could be torn down, one that the commission and Marshallton residents might want to see preserved.

"Yes, it can be torn down," said Cathy Davis, "but we can talk it over, maybe find an alternate buyer for the property. There is some

discussion." Later, she said the supervisors could prevent a building's demolition on a recommendation from the Board of Historical Architectural Review, but the supervisors would have the final decision.

Commissioners said they had been told by residents in the village that "we don't want the township and the state telling us what to do."

## Own Control

"Obviously, the people who are going to be on this Board (BOAHR) will be from Marshallton," said Davis. "They'll be able to control it

(Please turn to Page 12)







SUGAR'S

DOG DRIVE

TELEGRAPH R  
T-381

ROAD

T-381

SUGAR'S BRIDGE ROAD

JOLENE STREET

MARSHALLTON

CAMP ROAD

MILL ROAD

T-377

MANOR DRIVE

DRIVE

CARRIAGE LANE

ROAD

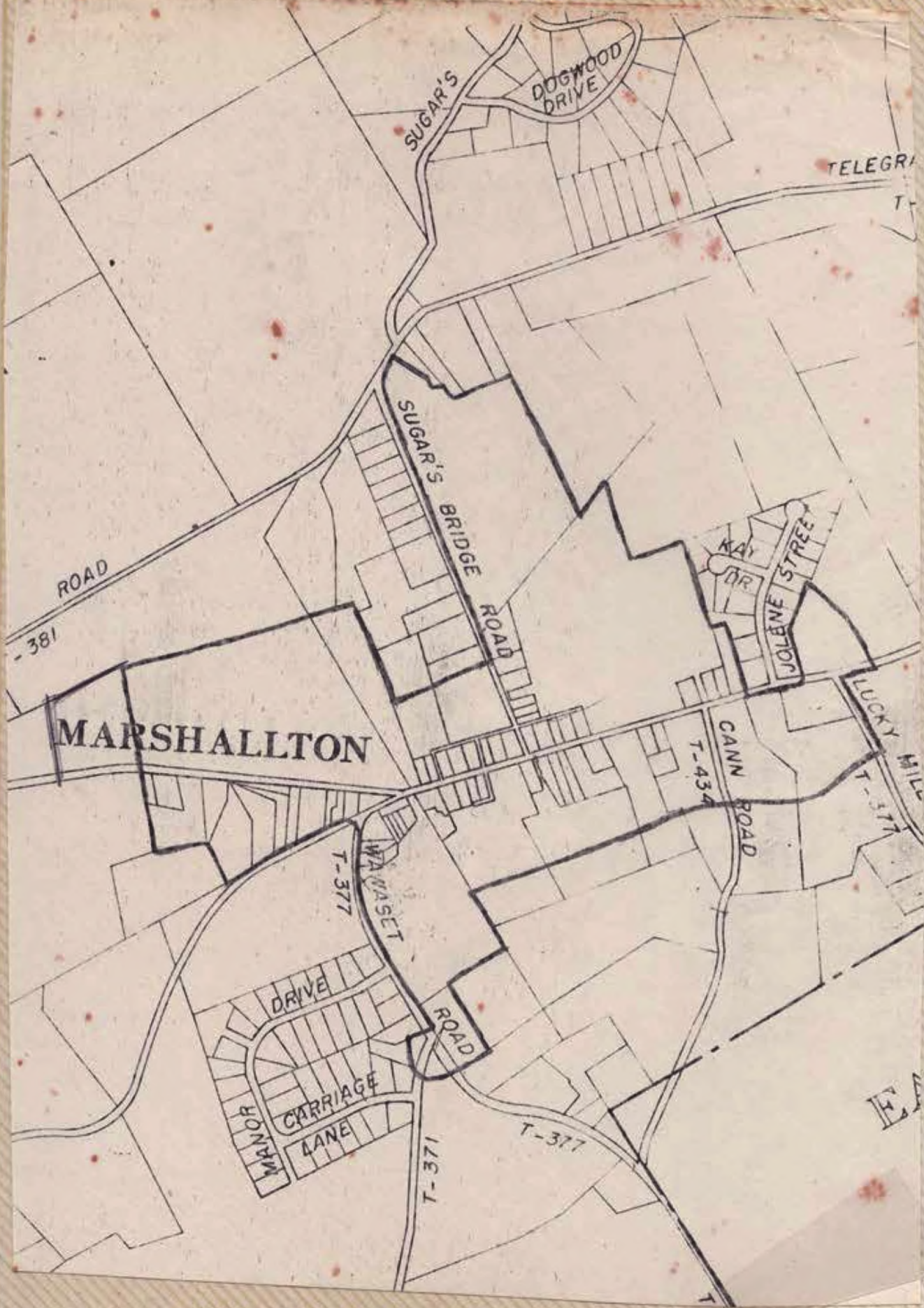
17E-1

T-37

EAST

T-43





ROAD

- 381

MARSHALLTON

SUGAR'S BRIDGE ROAD

ROAD

CANN ROAD

JOLENE STREET

LUCKY HILL

DRIVE

CARRIAGE LANE

ROAD

T-377

T-434

T-371

T-377

EA



# Marshallton residents rap historic district

By JOHN ADDYMAN  
Of The RECORD Staff

A group of adamant residents and property owners effectively shot down in flames the first draft for a Historic District in the Village of Marshallton last night.

During nearly two hours of discussion, few residents spoke out in support for the proposal, which seeks to preserve the character of the small country village that has been much the same for the better part of two centuries.

But many came to decry what they felt was an intrusion on their private lives and property, the interference of careless and insensitive government and the intrusion of "outsiders" and "newcomers."

Of almost 20 letters given a brisk run-through by supervisors' Chairman Paul Dougherty, who conducted the meeting, only one was in a positive vein in reference to the proposed district.

## Misunderstanding

David Davis, chairman of the Historic Committee which, as an adjunct to the West Bradford Township Planning Commission was responsible for bringing the draft to the supervisors, expressed "disappointment" at the night's outcome.

"There were a lot of misunderstandings," he said. "And there was also a lot of support in that room that didn't voice itself."

No parking was to be had within 100 feet of the township building, and more than 60 people, a standing-room-only

crowd, packed all of the available space in the meeting room and the hallway as the hearing opened up.

At the end, when everyone who wished to speak had been heard, Mrs. Frances Leidy asked: "Now what happens? Do you rewrite? What action do you have?"

"We'll take the comments from this evening," said Dougherty, "and apply them to

what has been done so far. Another public meeting? I'd very much like to see that."

He admitted that the "next" public meeting on the proposal could not be "before the fall," and Supervisor George Graham added: "We're kinda back to the drawing board. We will not enact THIS ordinance."

Graham then said, "that's not to say this isn't a good idea."

## How It Started

The idea for a historic district, explained Dougherty, had come about in 1974 with the beginning discussions for a new comprehensive plan.

"Marshallton is unique to this area," he said. "It is a combination of residential and commercial uses, it's extremely charming and an awful nice place to be in, an awful nice place to come from and an awful nice place to have your children."

In a review of the zoning structure, he went on, the township fathers felt, due to the advancing pressure from developers putting up swarms of new homes, that Marshallton would need some help to stay the way it was.

Dougherty cited that 250 homesites were now before township planning bodies, submitted for development within the last month alone.

The supervisors, years back, had asked a group of people to survey the township for historical sites and the group — later the Historical Committee — came up with a wealth of material in Marshallton.

(Please turn to Page Six)



DAVE DAVIS  
... Proponent



# Marshallton residents rap historic district plan

(Continued from Page One)

"We felt the most judicious thing was to look at Marshallton as an entity," said Dougherty. The historic district idea came up, and the committee drew up an ordinance based on state regulations and what other townships had passed.

"It's not our intention to levy a tax burden, or restrict the use of the land, or make a cumbersome process you have to go through to put a nail on a fence," said Dougherty. He then read through the letters before him on the table.

## Public Comment

The supervisors had asked the County Assessor if Historic District zoning would raise assessments. Harry T. Williams wrote back that "creating a historic district would not in itself cause a reassessment."

Graham read the ordinance, verbatim, and discussion began.

From the planning commission, Chairman Gary Dixner said the township comprehensive plan had come about through extensive public participation, and a questionnaire mailed to "almost every home in the township" had been strongly in support of saving the important structures.

Brinton Ross told everyone, "the first thing people want to do when they move in is run for supervisor so they can run the township. Everything is up to the Board of Supervisors — nothing is said about the poor people whose homes are going to be affected. You fellows have already said you're for the Historic District — how can we compete with that?"

"Go ahead and tell me what to do with my home, if you let me tell you what to do with your home."

Mildred Albertson: "Why didn't you ask the residents of Marshallton if they wanted to be in a historic district? Ask them if they wanted to be in it voluntarily...let us pray, at the township level, we are not becoming a police state."

"I can't understand how the township can tell property owners what to do. I don't appreciate you telling me what I can do, or not do. Was the choice of the boundary line (for the district) done as a deterrent to selling my property? How many members of the historic committee have their property in Marshallton, in the historic district?"

From Pat Costello: "I'm in favor of the idea, but it should be voluntary. The people from Marshallton know what's good for them as well as the people from outside."

Dorothy Hertig: "I envision a

community that will be turned into a three-ring circus — your entire way of life will be changed. I think of Marshallton as a conservative, folksy community, and I hope it stays that way."

Ed Busby: "When I made my last payment of \$1,500 at the bank for my property, I thought I owned everything on my place, on that line, from hell to heaven. I don't want nobody to bother me or tell me what to do on my place...if they bother me too much, I'm going to have the pleasure of sending them to heaven or hell ahead of me."

Brinton Ross: "This thing has certainly stirred up the borough, and it's a terrible feeling. It's dog eat dog now. It's a feeling of frustration. I think this thing has gone far enough. Why don't you ask the people of Marshallton what they want?"

Jane Davidson said she was



not a property owner yet, but would be within a month. An expert in historical districts, she told the audience it was "up to the local people themselves how they want to interpret it — lenient or strict." She told residents that a historic district might be the only source of protection from the Commonwealth's eminent domain, and how that could affect the village should Route 162 be widened.

"This is one of the best ways to protect the village," she said, "in a township like this, with 250 new housing permits in a month, the villages are the first to go by way of blight. This historic district is not a form of commercial tourism."

Sam Wagner: "I think it (the ordinance) could be tightened up. There are some internal inconsistencies...I think the map is seriously defective."

Davis finally spoke, reiterating some of the points which had come up repeatedly during township discussions but were once again being raised.

To summarize, he said new construction which had to be approved by the Board of Historical Architectural Review (BOHAR) was only that affecting the front of the building or that which could be seen from a public street; "the ordinance can't make anyone do construction — it can't regulate the choice of siding, changing doors or windows, or roofing materials; the ordinance is not going to tell you how to paint your home, and new construction doesn't have to be colonial reproductions; we are not creating a museum district...your house will not be open to the public; the legislation will not change the

neighborhood...only external features will be reviewed by the BOHAR, and only those which can be seen from a public street."

Bob Crawford: "I think the whole thing here is that we resent very much what you're trying to do. I think you're doing us a disservice."

Township Solicitor John Good: "Nobody is against anybody in this room. The board isn't sold on this. If you can keep this in mind, the comments will be more helpful."

Dick Armstrong: "I hate to see the turmoil in Marshallton about this issue, and I condemn the vitriolic attacks on Mr. Davis, whom I have found to be one of the most selfless proponents of maintaining the status quo." He warned that Strasburg Associates has a "great deal of big money and political resources behind it," and is pushing for the widening of Route 162 to get at the landfill.

"Changes to Marshallton can be more radical than people realize," said Armstrong, a member of the planning commission.

Dougherty apologized to Davis and members of other advisory and appointed township groups who "have taken shots" from residents while giving of their time and energies without pay.

Gerald Madsen: "There's divisiveness in town, and these are all good people. You ought to realize this and throw the ordinance out. There's nothing to work on."

In a sense, Madsen got his wish.



# Marshallton hurt by

By JOHN ADDYMAN  
Of The RECORD Staff

Last Tuesday night residents of Marshallton came before their Board of Supervisors to protest a zoning change.

And, certainly there's no news in that fact — it happens all the time in Chester County.

What is incredible, and frightening, is the depth and wealth of misunderstanding exhibited in the comments of some of the people who spoke out.

In West Bradford Township, a study that was begun really five years ago, with the first discussions for a new comprehensive plan, recently came to fruition in the writing of a historical district ordinance.

That ordinance would have sought to protect much of the "ambiance" and "charm" and "character" and "quality" and "mood" and "nature" of the small community we've all driven through.

## Limited Controls

Controlling only the maintenance of the facades of homes, and the preservation of buildings that insensitive builders might wish to remove from existence, the ordinance is much the same as that which has been enacted in many other municipalities across the state — and in Chester County as well.

Marshallton and the surrounding West Bradford Township area have a unique position in the county.

As development for the past 30 years has spread at an ever more rapid pace along the Rt.

30/Rt. 3 corridors, and more recently along Rt. 202, the rolling greenery of West Bradford has been allowed to slumber.

Marshallton, a trade center in the 1800s, has gone to sleep for nearly a century, and the folks who live there — many families in the same house for generations — have liked it just that way.

## Utter Folly

It is utter folly to think that Marshallton can remain as it was and is without a fight.

The township has decided to attempt enabling legislation under Act 167, which provides for historic districts. This might at least slow the creep of urban sprawl which is bringing to ruin some Chester County communities.

A building boom, accelerating through the fall, is filling up the once tranquil roadways. Township services are being stretched to the point where major changes may be in the offing in the near future.

Even the supervisors, who have been infinitely aware of the pressure by developers to open up more homesite areas, have been jolted by the realities of the situation.

"It's just shocking," Supervisor Board Chairman Paul Dougherty said Tuesday night, and he's said the same thing before. In the last month, 250 homes were brought before the supervisors for approval.

To think that Marshallton can somehow stick together, a nest of homeowners, bravely

positioned staunchly against progress, and resist the pressure in the surrounding area...well, that's madness.

## Route 162 Problem

When the township made a move to establish a historic district — a thought which might keep PennDOT's hands off Rt. 162, and might keep the next decade free from a wider, faster and more heavily traveled route filled with trash trucks — the residents of Marshallton rose to oppose it.

That they united to oppose it was good. That's democracy. But somebody has been filling a lot of heads with nightmare stories about the intrusion of big government on their lives.

If Marshallton has to fear anything, it is the rigidity of its own householders. While they resist the careful extension of a helping hand from the township, the monied developers are going to walk in and steal their village away from them.

To the credit of the supervisors and the planning commission, this situation was seen to be occurring before the grim realities became evident to most of the rest of us. But the people who should be most easily convinced remain intransigent, sitting on their property rights.

Maybe this is Yankee stubbornness. Maybe this is the way democracy works best, when you have a group of people who need a lot of convincing.

But maybe there isn't much time, either. And maybe this group, insular and self-serving, is going to decide that at the risk



# hearsay

of Marshallton becoming another Exton, they're right and the township is wrong.

The people of Marshallton are an important group of citizens. Many are elderly and perhaps don't care about the next generation, or preserving anything for anyone else.

## People Must Act

And, perhaps a little vainly proud, they feel that, together, they can maintain Marshallton and keep it safe for the next century.

But circumstance has saved Marshallton in the past. People must do it now.

There is no way for the town to avoid what is coming all around them while West Bradford Township blossoms as a suburban — no longer country — community.

No way, that is, without the cooperation and efforts of everyone in the township. The Marshallton householders have already rejected the first plan as infringing on their rights and privacy.

But the ordinance does no such thing.

Many of the fears residents expressed in the meeting were results of rumor, hearsay and lack of proper information — laced with heavy doses of governmental suspicion and covered with a layer of hubris.

Is Marshallton too important a regional treasure for the people living there to decide what shall be? If the homeowners remain intransigent and unyielding, they may get an answer to that question.



# Marshallton historical area shelved

By PATRICIA DONAHUE  
(Local News Correspondent)

"I worked hard for that place . . . I never asked anybody where or what I could build or tear down, and I don't intend to now. That place belongs to me."

Those sentiments expressed by Edward Busby, long-time resident of Marshallton, were echoed by many other villagers who packed a public hearing last night on the proposed historical district ordinance — and forced the West Bradford supervisors to shelve the whole idea.

Over 75 persons, most of them from Marshallton, turned out to air some strong feelings on the proposed ordinance, which would create a historical district encompassing Marshallton and some property along Rt. 162 on either side of the village.

The ordinance would have established a seven-member board empowered to oversee any building alterations requiring a building permit that would change the facade. If the board determined the alteration was in keeping with the town's overall character, it would recommend the township supervisors approve a "certificate of appropriateness."

## Many outraged

But many Marshallton residents were outraged at the idea of "outsiders" telling them what they could do with their own property, and told the supervisors in no

uncertain terms.

Mildred Albertson, owner of a farm just east of the village, criticized the board for not making a homeowner's inclusion in the historical district voluntary, and for using "pressure and scare tactics" such as a \$300 fine or 90 days in jail for violation of the ordinance.

"You people on this historical committee are history buffs," Albertson said. "That's your privilege. But you should not force your ideas on the rest of us property owners. You don't pay my taxes. You don't pay my bills."

Her remarks and those of others ex-

pressing opposition to the ordinance were greeted with rounds of applause from much of the audience.

In a heated attack on the supervisors and the historical committee, Brinton Ross of Marshallton accused them of trying to grab more power by enacting more regulations.

"Well, you go right ahead and tell me what I can do with my home," Ross said, "and I'll tell you what you're allowed to do with yours."

At the start of the meeting, supervisor Chairman Paul Dougherty had told the gathering the proposed ordinance grew

out of the township's comprehensive plan, which called for creating a historical district to protect the village from losing its quaint character.

## Development pressure

"The township is under incredible development pressure," he said. "Just last month we received plans for 250 lots. That's a month-to-month occurrence."

He further explained the board's intention was not to "levy upon Marshallton a tax burden, or restrictive use of land, or cumbersome procedures to go through to

(Continued on Page 5, Column 1)



# Angry Marshallton residents nix historical district plan

DLN

(Continued From Page 1)

nail up a fence. It's to protect the village from the extremes."

Several persons voiced the same feelings as Emily Wallace, who told the board "Marshallton will never change. People there care about their homes, it's always been that way. Marshallton has not changed for many, many years."

Pat Costello, owner of the Marshallton Corner Store, suggested the historical district be set up on a voluntary basis and the majority of the review board be from the village.

"Don't have outsiders telling people of the town what should be done. If anybody knows what the character of the town is, it's the people who live there."

The proposed ordinance called for the board to include an architect, a real estate broker, a planning commission member and the township building inspector.

Midway through the tension-filled meeting, a beleaguered David Davis, head of the historical committee which drafted the ordinance, got up to defend the ordinance and try to clarify some of its points.

He explained the purpose of the ordinance was to prevent only "radical changes" in the town's character, with such things as paint, roofing or siding not

included in its jurisdiction. The village would not become a museum, he said, taxes would not go up, and no one could be forced to spend money improving his home.

## Visual amenities

"We're not trying to control growth," Davis said, "only the visual amenities of that growth." He said the ordinance would also serve to protect the village from any widening of Rt. 162, since the state would not disturb a historical district.

Dick Armstrong of Marshallton, a member of the planning commission, suggested that threat could be real with the present of Strasburg Associates, a landfill operation that has had many run-ins with the township.

"They have a great deal of money, enough to entice PennDOT to widen 162," Armstrong said. He warned villagers that the whole character of the village could be ruined by a fast-food restaurant or similar venture as well.

Several times, when the meeting heated up and anger was vented on the supervisors, solicitor John Good intervened to explain to residents the whole purpose of the hearing was to get residents' views on the concept of a historical district, not to force it on them.

But the anger and resentment persisted.

"We resent very much what you're trying to do," Bob Crawford of Marshallton told the supervisors. "We think you've done us a disservice."

Another villager, Joe Mattson, also spoke of the divisiveness caused by the proposed ordinance, and urged the board to throw it out.

Supervisor Stephen Hoyt had removed himself from the discussion last night because he lives in Marshallton, but Dougherty and George Graham Jr. indicated they would not enact the present ordinance. They did say, however, there may be a revised version coming out, possibly by this fall.





### ***Supports ordinance***

(RECORD photo by Sam Radziviluk)

George Mershon, owner of the Marshalton Inn, discusses the benefits of adopting an ordinance to make the village of Marshalton an historical district. He was among a number of West Bradford residents at last night's session.



By BRUCE HEYDT  
(Local News Correspondent)

Water is on the minds, but not in the ground, of West Bradford Township residents. Concerned over the bleak outlook of water availability, residents confronted the township supervisors last night with questions about what action can be taken to insure the township does not run out of water.

While many residents attended the meeting to address the problems of water supply, others protested the supervisors' role in the effort to have the village of Marshallton declared a state and national historic district.

David Johnson, speaking on behalf of Marshallton residents, presented a petition which had been circulated, under the advice of an attorney, throughout Marshallton. Its signers are "strenuously opposed" to the designation of Marshallton as an historic site, claiming such action would be "detrimental" and objecting to the township's failure to inform residents of its intentions. Approximately 60 people signed the document.

In response to the statement that petition signers are "opposed to the enact-

ment of ordinances" passed in relation to the Marshallton historic project, Wood argued no such ordinances had been passed, considered or planned. Wagner said the designation will lead to no ordinances or changes in zoning laws, adding "I can keep saying this until I'm blue, and you can still doubt it." Johnson responded by saying future supervisors may not abide by these claims.

Wood questioned Johnson about the claim made in the petition that being designated a historic district would be "detrimental" to Marshallton. Johnson declined

to elaborate, claiming his lawyer advised against such a discussion.

At the Feb. 9 supervisors' meeting, Johnson spoke against the designation on the grounds that it would impose restrictions on the maintenance of the properties so designated. Wood insisted no such restrictions would be a part of either state or national recognition, and added financial assistance is available to the owner of designated properties who make efforts to maintain the property's historic appearance.

In addition, Johnson and others feel their rights were infringed upon by having photographs taken of their houses and sent to Harrisburg as part of the final application. The primary grievance, however, was that residents were not kept informed of the work which was being done regarding their properties.

A member of the historical commission, which prepared the application, was present and, when questioned by Wood, claimed citizens were invited to be mem-

bers of the historical committee and to attend its meetings. The committee member, who wished not to be identified, said the project involves no attempt to alter the area in any way and that the designation as an historic district "could only help."

It was reported forms are to be distributed to the owners of designated properties asking for information detailing the history of each building. According to Johnson, none of the signers of the petition had received such a form.



## W. Bradford revives historic district plan

by Steve Marsh  
staff writer

A wave of unfavorable public opinion last year brought plans to establish an historic district in Marshallton to a screeching halt. The historic committee, created by the West Bradford planning commission, had proposed an ordinance which would have turned the village and some outlying areas into a district subject to some controls of an architectural review board.

Public opposition to the plan by several long-time residents was overwhelming. The com-

mittee, then headed by David Davis, gave up on the idea.

But since last year's defeat, the committee has been working to find another way to create a district which could preserve the historic character of the old village. Nancy Hill, an historic committee member, took over the reins of the group when Davis became chairman of the township planning commission earlier this year.

"Nothing's definite yet," Mrs. Hill insisted. But her committee has been looking seriously at alternative plans for turning the village into a district. "We'll be doing some sort of district," she claimed.

In January, the historic committee talked with Jane Davidson, Downingtown borough historian and operator of a research firm, about creating a Marshallton district. "She explained what was done in Downingtown in the way of a resolution," Mrs. Hill noted.

The first effort to turn Marshallton into a district had been made under state law. Downingtown's district was created as a National Register Historic District. The National Register District places few restrictions on property-owners in the area. Several Marshallton property-owners in the area. Several Marshallton property-owners had fought the early attempt because of its restrictions.

Mrs. Hill said some of the residents who had been vocally opposed to the previous plan had attended the committee meeting with Mrs. Davidson. Her explanation of the National Register District, said Mrs. Hill, "seemed to satisfy some of those who were opposed to it" in the past.

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# W. Bradford revives historic district plan

*Continued from Page 1*

Mrs. Hill said Mrs. Davidson was eager to start on the Marshallton project. But the ideas have to be approved by the historic committee, the planning commission, and finally by the board of supervisors. Mrs. Davidson did not tell the historic committee how much the job would cost.

"They asked me to talk to them," said Mrs. Davidson. She claimed she could not quote a price until "I look at the

documentation and analyze it." Mrs. Davidson would not be doing the work herself, because she is still obligated to Downingtown. But her firm, Historic Research Associates would do the work under her direction.

Fees charged by Mrs. Davidson's firm can range in the thousands of dollars for documenting a district. She said her fees depended on how much work her firm would have to do. Some research for the previous Marshallton district effort has already been completed.

The Brandywine Conservancy, Chadds Ford, is also in the business of establishing historic districts. Under Martha Wolfe, the conservancy has been directing county-wide efforts for a historic site survey. Ms. Wolfe said the results of the survey would be used by the conservancy to pinpoint locations of obvious historic

districts.

The conservancy "can do the entire job" of creating a historic district, whether under state regulations or for the National Register, Ms. Wolfe said. It can also act as consultant using community volunteer labor.

Conservancy work is not free. "We would set a contract" if asked to do a job, she said. But "we're non-profit, so we can charge much less than others," she noted. The conservancy is most concerned with simply breaking even, she noted.

Starting in March, Ms. Wolfe said, the conservancy will institute a financial incentive program to help and encourage communities throughout the county to create historic districts. Since the conservancy budget will not be announced until March, details of the plan were not yet available.

Whatever route the West

Bradford committee may choose to take, one thing is for certain. Members are not going to do all the work themselves. They are fairly certain, Mrs. Hill noted, that an outside consultant like Mrs. Davidson will be hired if the proposal is approved.

"It would have been a lot easier (the last time a district was proposed) if we could have put an outsider there to take the beating we took," Mrs. Hill said. She claimed some of her

neighbors still bear hard feelings for her involvement in the last proposal.

Nevertheless, she is determined to create some sort of district. The boundaries will probably be pulled closer to the center of the village in the new plan, and some sections may be excluded, she noted. But that is as far as plans have gone. But "as far as I'm concerned, I want to see a Marshallton Historic District," she concluded.