



10 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP'S PAST

European settlers came to the lands we now call Franklin Township over 300 years ago. The history of the area is reflected in the records and artifacts left behind. Below are a few interesting things learned about life in Franklin Township in the 1700 and 1800s.

1. The irregularity of Franklin Township's borders reflects how the land was randomly settled in the early 1700s. The northeast corner of the Township was originally part of William Penn's 65,000 acres--The London Tract granted in 1699. According to a 1720 advertisement, the London Land Company leased 50 acres to one person, with 10 families required to settle together on 5,000 acres to promote "good neighborhood convenience." The remainder of the land in Franklin's south and east were part of a number of small land grants. The deeds for the land were prepared in England using the metes and bounds technique.

2. When municipalities were formed to provide more effective political representation, Franklin Township was part of the 1724 New London governance. In 1852, Abisha Kimble, George Mackey, David Kimble, and Robert Strickland signed a petition calling for the establishment of Franklin Township in the southeastern portion of New London Township. A public meeting in July of that year was held at the Kemblesville Inn (Tavern) to fix the boundaries. The name Franklin Township was suggested to honor Benjamin Franklin, who owned about 160 acres within the Township. Davis Kimble did the surveying of the new township.

3. The oldest remaining house in Franklin Township is the Susan Fury House on Den Road. The original log cabin structure has had many renovations since the 1700s when it was first built. In March 2005, one of Franklin Township's other examples of log cabins--the Cornelius Lynch House on North Creek Road--was demolished.



The tenant house on the McKean property.

4. There is only one property in Franklin Township on the National Register of Historic Places--the house of Thomas McKean (1734-1817) on Route 896, just north of the intersection with Route 841. McKean was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the only continuous member of the Continental Congress. He is credited as the author of the Delaware Constitution and served as Delaware's President for a short time. McKean served as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania from 1777 to 1799 and Pennsylvania's governor from 1799-1808. It is believed he was born and spent his younger years at this farmstead. The original house burned in the early 1800s and a tenant house was built on the foundation.

5. The following mills/industries operated in Franklin Township in its early history:

- 1724: Abraham Emmitt operated a grist mill on the Big Elk Creek. John Tweed operated it in the 1890s.
- 1842: Darlington Cope started Cope Pottery.
- 1827: Robert Lysle purchased land in Franklin Township and started a paper mill. Various descendants operated various paper mills in the area. Wilson Lysle obtained a patent for a chemical filter paper. In 1902, it was known as Franklin Mill. The last time the mill was in full operation was 1949.
- 1829: Wickersham Mill/Chandler Mill, grist mill for grinding flour, grain, and feed; sawing was also done.
- 1823: William Schlogle opened a grist, cider, and saw mill in Kemblesville. The Martin family purchased it in the 1890s. Flour from this mill traveled west in Conestoga wagons.
- John K. Steele Mill (Hess Road) was a grist mill and saw mill.

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The Emmitt/Tweed Mill along the Big Elk Creek.

Message from the Chairman

Franklin Township has a full, rich history as evidenced by the *10 Interesting Facts About Franklin Township's Past* starting on the front page.

For me, this was a time to reflect on how the events of the past, such as the invention of the automobile, changed Franklin Township's character from a rural agricultural community to a bedroom/commuting community for larger cities.

Preserving the stories, documents and artifacts of past events gives future generations the resources to understand our area in a different time. We're interested in featuring oral histories as part of future newsletters. For our residents who have lived much of their lives in our community and would like the opportunity to share their experiences, we encourage you to record your stories. Please give the Township Office a call – 610-255-5212.

On behalf of all Township residents, I'd like to thank the volunteers of the Franklin Township Historical Commission and Historical Architecture Review Board for all their work in preserving Franklin Township's historic resources.

As a reminder to all residents, the Franklin Township Historical Commission welcomes documents, old photographs and artifacts about the Township for its archives. Call the Township Office if you'd like more information about donating items or copies (if you want to keep the originals) to the historical archives.

In the ongoing quest to keep Franklin as rural as legally achievable, by working with willing property owners, a magnificent success story recently crossed the finish line. Instead of an approved subdivision plan for 42 new houses on the 112 +/- acres of the former Mackie farm (between Walker and Peacedale Rd.), the Natural Lands Trust (NLT) is instead going to own and maintain for public enjoyment both this property and the adjacent 60 +/- acres that NLT already owns. Please see the story on page 5 for details of this wonderful news.

On a final note, I'd also like to thank Eagle Scout Joe Pitts for the work he did to improve Crossan Park. Our youth's commitment is a hopeful sign that our community will continue to prosper for years to come.

Sincerely,

*Dick Whipple, Chairman
Franklin Township Board of Supervisors*

What You Should Know About Droughts

The State of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) monitors precipitation, groundwater, and stream levels. When these levels fall, the DEP issues drought watches, warnings, and emergencies based on the severity of the water deficits.

In 2007 and 2008, the Department of Environmental Protection issued Stage 1 Drought Watch Alerts for 58 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and our region, southeastern Pennsylvania, was among them.

As recently as May of this year, the region was still under a drought watch. With the rains since then, the actual rainfall deficit has decreased and the drought alert was lifted. Currently the entire state of Pennsylvania is within the normal range.

No one knows for sure what the rest of this summer or the future holds for precipitation, therefore now is a good time to discuss the impacts of droughts to the water

supply and what the public's responsibilities are when drought alerts are issued.

In our community, most residents rely upon wells to supply their homes with potable water. The water source for the well is an aquifer, which is filled as water (from rain or melting snow) seeps through the minute cracks in the rock. When a drought occurs, there is less water entering and recharging the aquifer's water supply.

"The homeowner with a water well supply should have a great concern about conserving water," says Walt Leis, Franklin Township's hydrologist. "If a drought occurs and a homeowner continues to pump the well serving their home, there is a chance that, after the drought period is over (and this usually happens within a year to three years on average), the house well may not fully recover its flow rate. What had originally been a water supply that was fully

serving the household, may become one in which the residents will have to watch and minimize the intensity of their water usage."

Leis also explains that the lowering of the regional water table can change the water's

chemistry. A buildup of various iron salts can cause staining of porcelain and clothing and cause a disagreeable taste and/or odor problems. Compounds, such as manganese, can also build up in concentration during drought periods. "These salts can have more serious medical concerns for kids who are sensitive to manganese compounds," he says.

"If we do get into a drought, the family should begin thinking about ways to conserve water, advises Leis. In the box (left) are DEP's recommendations for easy ways families can conserve water."

More information

is available at the DEP's website: <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/watershedmgmt> (click on "Drought Information").

For residents on a public water supply, water conservation is still important. The water purveyor must meet a series of requirements to reduce water consumption when droughts are declared.

"As far as this 'drought' we seemed to have narrowly 'dodged a bullet,'" says Leis. "Many of the DEP and River Basin folks were concerned that we may have been going into another sustained drought that we experienced from 1998 to 2002. During that period, many household wells actually went dry and public water supplies in this region had to physically move their intakes closer to salt water bodies. If it happens again, we would like everyone to be prepared with good water conservation plans they can implement for their own homes."

Tips for Conserving Water

In the Bathroom:

- Install low-flow plumbing fixtures and aerators on faucets
- Check for household leaks – a leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day
- Take short showers instead of baths.

Kitchen/Laundry Areas:

- Replace older appliances with high efficiency, front loading models that use about 30 percent less water and 40-50 percent less energy
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads
- Keep water in the refrigerator to avoid running water from a faucet until it is cold.

Outdoors:

- Water outdoors in the early morning or evening hours
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, steps and sidewalks
- Use soaker hoses and trickle irrigation systems to reduce water use by 20-50 percent
- Cover swimming pools to prevent evaporation.

10 Interesting Facts about Franklin Township's Past (continued from page 1)



A photo of the Mount Olivet church/school from the early 1970s.

6. Franklin Township had four churches in the 19th century:

- The Flint Hill Methodist Church was the first church built in Franklin Township in 1829. The most recent building burned in the 1950s but the graveyard still exists near Flint Hill's intersection with Elbow Lane.
- All that remains of the Mt. Olivet Methodist Church is the cemetery and ruins of the school/church on Walker Road.
- A Presbyterian Church was constructed in Kemblesville in 1852 with one acre of ground being purchased from Samuel Kimble, Sr. In December 1868, permission was granted for the Flint Hill Methodist Church to hold services on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. This congregation became strong in the community and purchased the building from the Presbyterians in 1899. The original building burned in 1990 and was rebuilt with the current church and recent addition.
- The Auburn Baptist Church, on Auburn Road, was built in the mid-1800s and continues to meet today.



7. Franklin Township's elementary-aged students were educated in one-room schoolhouses. The Spencer School House (Old Schoolhouse Road) is the oldest one remaining building. From 1875 to 1956 four schoolhouses were operating: Maple Grove (School House Road), Franklin (Route 896), Mt. Olivet (off Walker Road), and Auburn (Auburn Road).

Youth in seventh through twelfth grades attended the Avon Grove High School (now the Avon Grove Charter School) on State Road, in West Grove.

In 1953 Franklin Township joined the Avon Grove School District. When Kemblesville Elementary School opened in 1956, the Franklin Township one-room schoolhouses were closed.

8. Dr. Frederick West was a noted physician in the village of Kemblesville. His brother, J. G. West served as postmaster from 1862-1887 and operated a drug store from an addition on the house. The first telephone exchange in Franklin Township was established at West's Drug Store.



A sketch of the Dr. West house and drug store. The brick building, now a private residence, faces the curve at the intersection of Route 896 and Appleton Roads.

Bonus: Kemble vs. Kimble: Family lore states that brothers George and Samuel Kimble had a falling out. After that George changed the spelling of his last name to Kemble. In the cemetery at the Kemblesville United Methodist Church, Samuel Kimble's gravestone stands near George Kemble's. On the other hand, county records of the time show both spellings were used interchangeably, even within the same document. Kemblesville seems to predominate after George's death and it is felt this spelling is used to honor Kemblesville's first postmaster.

The Kemble family photo (left) was taken around 1937. Sitting (l to r) James Wesley Kemble, Hester Anne Perry Kilgore Kemble, Harry Ernst Kemble, Sr., Standing (l to r) Harry Ernest Kemble, Jr., Paul Barclay Kemble, and Francis Newlin Kemble.



Inside the Kimblesville Hotel.

9. Inns for weary travelers were usually located near crossroads. The first inn to receive a license in Franklin Township (1758) was the Plow and Harrow Inn (corner of Route 896 and 841). In the village of Fox Chase (now Kemblesville) George McCleave was granted a Tavern License in 1763. Known as the Fox Chase Inn or McCleave Tavern, it operated until the license was revoked and the property was sold as sheriff's sale in 1773.

The property became known as the Kimblesville Inn when Samuel and Sarah Kimble owned the property from 1814 to 1844. Their son Abisha took over ownership and operated the Kimblesville Hotel from 1843 to 1858.

Many others owned and operated the property over the years.

10. Chesterville (corner of Route 841, Chesterville Road, and North Creek Road) was a small bustling community in the mid 1800s. It was along a major traffic corridor, starting at the state line with Maryland, proceeding through West Grove, London Grove and on to Doe Run. In 1848 a post office opened in Sam Byles general store. The William Missimer farm across the street had a wheelwright and blacksmith shop.

Sources used to compile this information:

- Avon Grove: 300 Years in the Making, 1982, Avon Grove School District
- Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan: Historic Resources
- Franklin Township Historical Commission's archives
- Descendants of John J. Kimble (or Kemble) from Kemblesville, PA compiled by Dorothy Mae Kemble Bannar, 2004.

News and Notes

White Clay Crescent Preserve

The residents of Franklin Township voted, and the new name for the Township's open space off Chesterville Road (former Howard property) is White Clay Crescent Preserve. Thanks to all who participated!

Single-Stream Recycling

SECCRA, the landfill where all Township waste and recycling materials are deposited, is now a single-stream recycler. This means that recycling materials—glass, paper, cardboard, aluminum cans—do not have to be separated.

For those who choose curbside recycling through a trash hauler, there is no need to separate items, just put everything together into the recycling tub.

For those who use the Township's recycling center on Municipal Lane, eventually the bins will be relabeled, but it is okay to deposit your recyclables into any of the bins.

Hazardous Waste Collection

Mark your calendar for the final two Hazardous Waste Collection Days in Southern Chester County:

- Saturday, September 19, New Garden Maintenance Building, Route 41 (near

Newark Road), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Saturday, October 10, Government Services Building, West Chester (Computers accepted).

These words on labels and containers identify hazardous waste and should **not** be thrown away in trash destined for the SECCRA landfill: Caution, Toxic, Danger, Flammable, Warning, Corrosive, Explosive, Reactive, Combustible, Poisonous, Hazardous. In general these items can be brought to the Hazardous Waste Collection Day for disposal.

Unacceptable materials include: Latex (water-based) Paint, Explosives, Ammunition, Appliances, Radioactive Waste, Tires, Infectious Waste, and Unidentified Waste.

More information is available at www.chestercountyswa.org.

Volunteers Wanted

The Township maintains a wish list of service project ideas for students who are looking for Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects to complete for their community.

Community service opportunities are also available for school and/or community groups.

Contact the Township Office, 610-255-5212 for more details.

Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

Dick Whipple, Chairman
Nan Latimer, Vice Chairman
Eric Brindle, Member
Norman Hughes, Member
Paul Overton, Member

Administration

Jeffrey Eastburn, Assistant Township Manager
Joan McVaugh, Treasurer
Sharon Norris, Secretary
Eileen Rembecki, Secretary (part time)
Maureen Zdun, Secretary (part time)
Duane Brady, Building Inspector and Zoning Officer

Contact Information

In person:

20 Municipal Lane
Kemblesville, Pa. 19347
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-4 pm

By Phone: 610-255-5212

By Fax: 610-255-0659

By Mail:

P. O. Box 118
Kemblesville, PA 19347

Email:

info@franklintownship.us

On the web:

www.franklintownship.us

Township Meetings

All meetings are held in the meeting room at the Township Office.

Supervisors' Work Session—

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Supervisors' Board Meeting—

3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Planning Commission—

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm

Historical Architectural Review Board and Historic Commission—

1st Tuesday, odd months, 7pm

Open Space Committee—

3rd Monday, Aug. and Nov., 6:30pm

Want more info?

The Township's website is continuously updated!

www.franklintownship.us

The Franklin Township Newsletter is published by the Franklin Township Board of Supervisors and produced by Lucas Communications and Publications.

Using and Keeping Rain Where it Falls

Here are some ideas to use rain to help around your property, thus keeping stormwater run-off from entering local creeks and streams:

Permeable Pavement – Traditional concrete and asphalt don't allow water to soak into the ground. Instead these surfaces rely on storm drains to divert unwanted water. Permeable pavement systems, such as open jointed blocks (bricks, interlocking pavers), stone, or turf allow rain and snowmelt to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff. When designing patios, sidewalks, extra parking places on your property try to find a permeable solution first before paving or concreting another area.

Rain Barrels – You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas. Rain barrels can be made at home or purchased at local gardening centers. For more informa-

tion, go online to: <http://www.epa.gov/Region3/p2/what-is-rainbarrel.pdf>.

Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales – Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains. Rain Gardens: A How-To Manual for Homeowners can be found at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/home.rgmanual.pdf>.

Vegetated Filter Strips – Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets. If a stream or creek is on your property, leave a buffer of vegetation at least 50 feet, if possible, between cleared areas and the body of water.

Source: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Peacedale Preserve: New Open Space for Franklin Township

Proposed development becomes a Natural Lands Trust preserve

An entire proposed subdivision of 42 homes will not be built. Instead 113 acres will be added to Franklin Township's growing open space for public recreation.

On July 8, 2009 Natural Lands Trust (NLT), the region's largest land conservation organization, purchased from Wilkinson Nottingham L.L.C. the former Mackie property.

Natural Lands Trust will combine the Mackie parcel with the Foote Farm property, an adjacent property it already owned, to establish the 173-acre Peacedale Preserve. The preserve will have approximately 1.5 miles of trails and will be open to the public for hiking once amenities like a small parking area (located on Peacedale Road) are constructed.

Funding for the purchase was provided by grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Chester County Preservation Partnership Program, Franklin Township, and the Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation. Wilkinson Nottingham LLC donated a portion of the land's value to conserve the property, as well as agreeing to construct a small parking area at no cost to NLT.

The Mackie property's natural resources include two streams, which flow into the Big Elk Creek (part of the Chesapeake Bay estuary), woodlands,

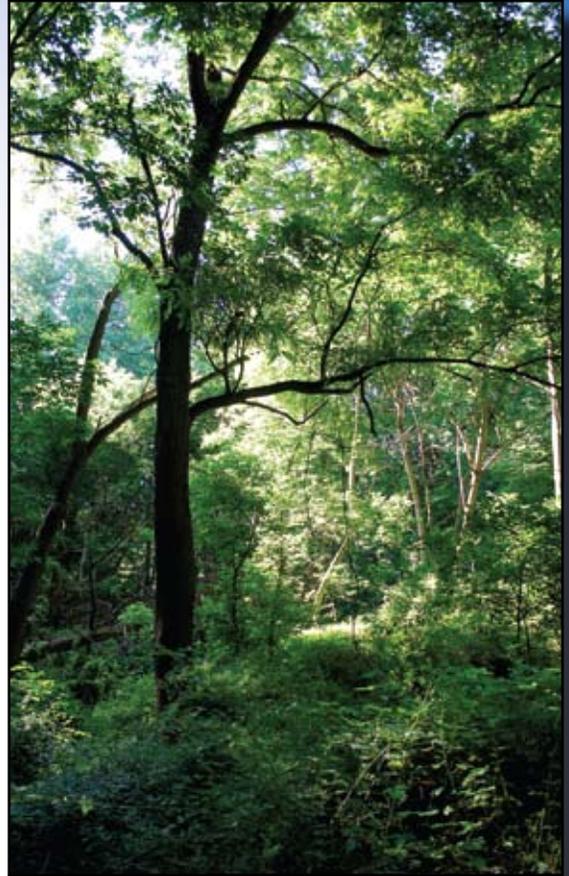
and pasturelands. NLT plans to convert some of the pasturelands into native grass meadows in the future.

"We are very excited to establish a new nature preserve in southern Chester County and grateful to our partners for making this possible," says Molly Morrison, president of Natural Lands Trust. "This property will provide a wonderful place for area residents to enjoy nature while at the same time furthering the protection of important water resources."

"I am pleased that we were able to cooperate with Franklin Township and Natural Lands Trust to conserve such environmentally significant land that is adjacent to other land already under the stewardship of Natural Lands Trust," notes Charles Wilkinson, Managing Member of Wilkinson Nottingham.

"I would like to thank everyone that worked on this project," says Teddy Price, chairman of the Open Space Committee. "It was a collective effort with a wonderful result. I would also like to thank Franklin's residents for supporting our open space program and invite you to come out and enjoy this beautiful preserve."

Photos (3): Views on the Mackie property, now Peacedale Preserve.



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Franklin Township Newsletter August 2009

Franklin's Summer Intern Completes Sign Inventory

Luke Darigan with the equipment he used for the sign inventory.

There are 421 street signs in Franklin Township and over the past few weeks Luke Darigan has found and recorded every single one.

Darigan is serving as Franklin Township's summer intern. His responsibilities for this internship were to GPS and photograph every street sign in the Township, entering the data to a database, thereby updating the Township's official sign inventory.

Of the 421 signs, he determined approximately 300 signs lacked the reflective coating which PennDOT has mandated be on all signs by 2012.

Darigan is a Professional Studies major with concentrations in GIS and Studio Art at West Chester University. He hopes to return this fall to map Franklin Township's trails.

Toman Receives Award

Ralph Oliver presents Wendy Toman with a Certificate of Appreciation to recognize her service with the Franklin Township Historical Commission and HARB.

Crossan Park Gets a Facelift for Eagle Scout Project

The two main gardens at Crossan Park, Franklin Township, received a facelift on Parsons Road, from Joe Pitts (not the Congressman), of Troop 18, Chester County Council, Boy Scouts of America.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joe replaced nine of the 6"x6" wooden beams used to border the gardens, re-planted the gardens with new plants, and remulched the beds.

"I wanted to beautify the park and do a project that would last a long time," said Joe on why he chose this project.

The Township supported this project with a \$500 donation for supplies, and Joe collected \$800 in private donations. Mike Pickle donated the use of his dump truck and tools and the Conrad Pyle Company supplied plants at half-price.

Joe Pitts, of Troop 18, works in the gardens at Crossan Park.



A group of volunteers worked to complete the gardens under Joe's leadership.

"The work went well," he says. "I had a lot of help from my troop and volunteers. I want to thank everyone that helped me to complete my project."

Joe is a Franklin Township resident and a senior at Avon Grove High School.