



Message from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

by Jim Neal

Tuesday, May 17 is Primary Election Day and an important day for residents of New Garden Township. There are four Township officials to be named for placement on the ballot for general election in November. Seats to be filled include: School Director for a 6 year term, tax collector for a 4 year term, one Township Supervisor for a 2 year term and one Township Supervisor for a 6 year term.

In addition to naming candidates for Township office, voters will have the opportunity to decide on an Open Space Referendum. This is a question on the ballot asking residents to decide if they wish to approve or disapprove a tax increase of .125% on earned income for an open space preservation fund.

All registered voters are urged to make their voices heard. The opportunity to influence the quality of life in the Township is at the ballot box. Put May 17 on your calendar and vote!

New Garden Township *established 1700*



New Garden Meeting House - 1743

Board of Supervisors

Jim Neal, Chair
Steve Allaband, Vice-Chair
Gerald W. Davis
Robert J. Perrotti
Robert N. Taylor

Township Manager

Carmen Raddi

Secretary/Treasurer

Joan F. Kelleher



Landenberg Bridge - 1899

Township Office

299 Starr Road
Landenberg, PA 19350

Hours: 10:00 am-4:30 pm, M-F
Phone: 610-268-2915
Fax: 610-268-0458

Internet

Email:
supervisors@newgarden.org
office@newgarden.org
Township Website:
www.newgarden.org
Historical Commission Website:
www.ccil.org/~nghc



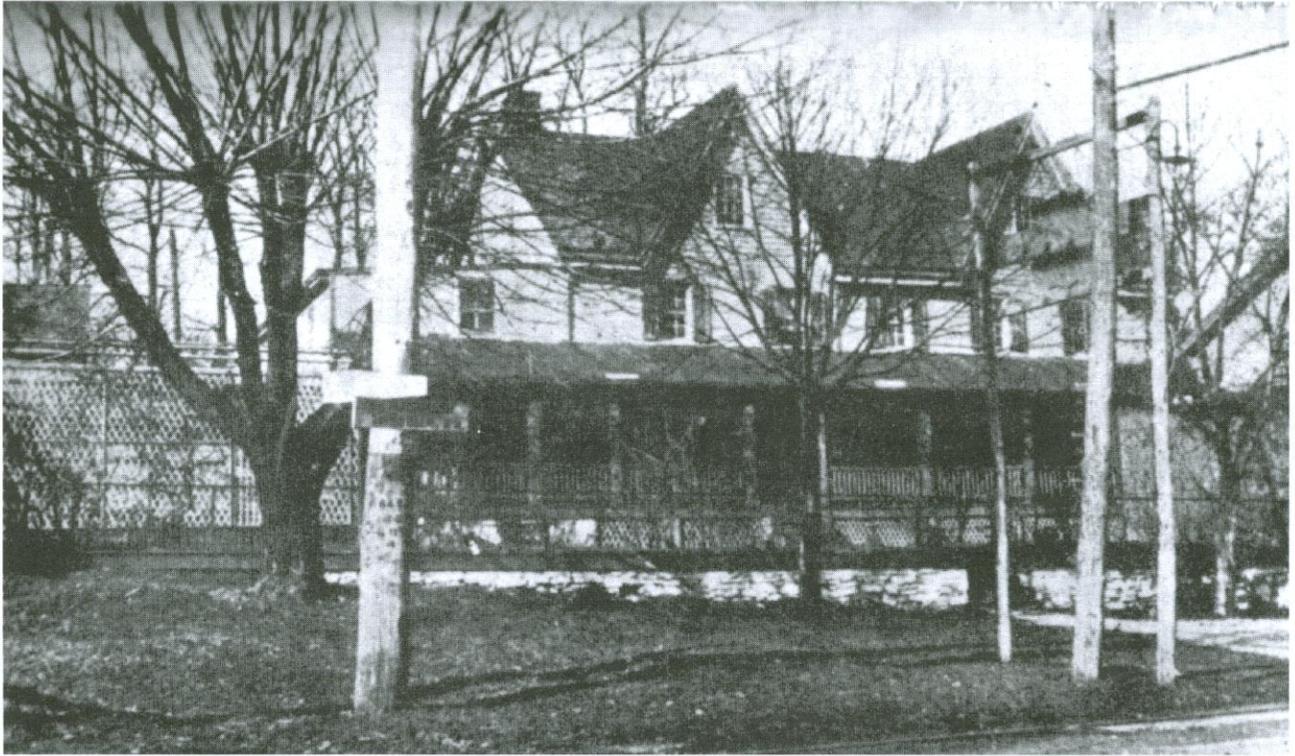
Previous township efforts have preserved open space along the White Clay Creek north of Landenberg

Toughkenamon's Industrial Past

by Peg Jones

Waiting for the traffic lights to change at the busy intersection of Baltimore Pike and Newark Roads, motorists probably don't realize there was a time when Toughkenamon was a thriving industrial town. In the second half of the 19th century,

steam rose from factories, the railroad made regular stops and small businesses flourished. Until 1852, however, Toughkenamon consisted of only five buildings: three houses, a store, and the tavern known as the Hammer and Trowel. From these modest beginnings, Toughkenamon began to grow, 14 houses went up in 1860, and in 1870, the population numbered about 300 persons. By 1901, electricity, including street lights and telephone service had come to town.



The Hammer and Trowel was located on the NE corner of Baltimore Pike and Newark Rd.



Toughkenamon Railroad Station

One man, Isaac Slack, generally acknowledged to be the "Father of Toughkenamon," was responsible. In 1852, knowing that the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad was to come through the valley with stations in Kennett and Avondale, Slack began to buy land and build houses. In 1855, he purchased a farmstead of 132 acres and subdivided it into smaller tracts, reserving the old stone house built by



The Intersection of Baltimore Pike (State Rd) and Newark Rd, looking east towards Kennett Square, around 1900.

Isaac Miller for his own home.

Isaac Slack had already invested in the village, building a brick wheel and spoke factory employing 30 men and a stone saw mill powered by a steam engine. He knew regular rail service was necessary if his enterprises were to succeed. To encourage the railroad to make a regular stop, Slack built a station, installed a water tank and deeded the surrounding land to the railroad. In 1863, trains began to make Toughkenamon a regular stop, with the steam engines taking on water there. In 1866, the saw mill was filling an order for ship timbers to go to Boston and thousands of handles for axes, picks and hatchets were being shipped to Philadelphia and New York. Orders for spokes and carriage wheels were also being filled for far off places.

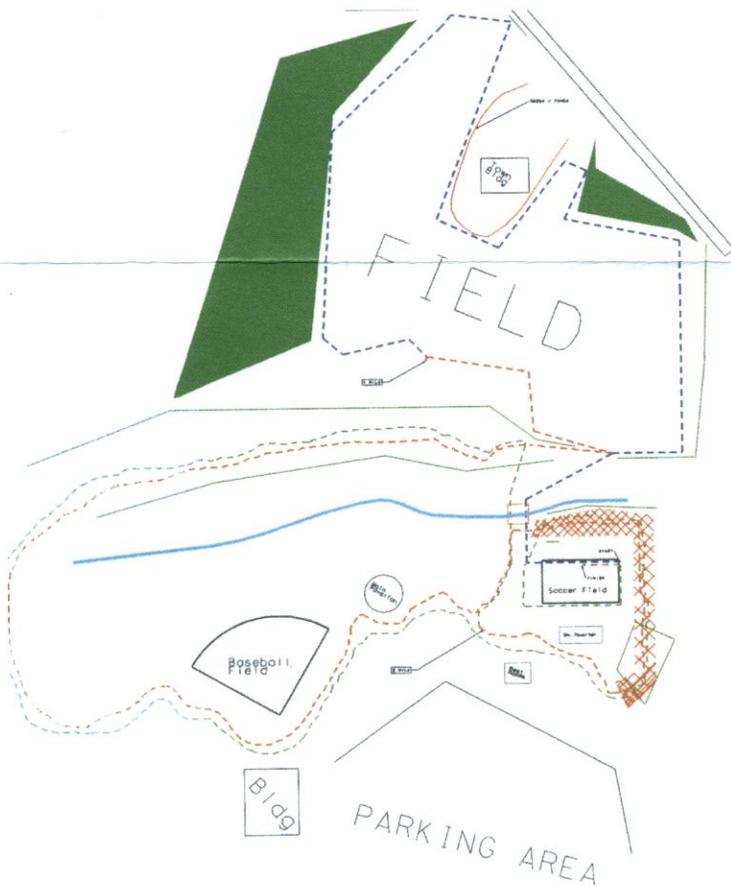
Slack's small tracts soon sprouted a flour and feed mill, blacksmith shop, brick kiln, wheelwright shop, broom factory, saddle and harness shop, feldspar mill, and a creamery. The amenities of a village followed, a private boarding school opened in 1868, and in 1877 a public school house was built. A general store opened in 1872, a church was built in 1874, and not to be outdone by other towns, a half mile race track opened in 1875.

If in the period up through the mid-1880's Toughkenamon's economy depended on Slack's factories, after 1882, Sharpless' Creamery which made cottage cheese and butter, was the big business in town processing between 3000 and 5000 pounds of milk daily. In the early and mid-20th century the town's economy was tied to the mushroom industry with a basket factory, mushroom supply houses and Losito's mushroom cannery providing jobs. Many families of Italian descent replaced the Scotch-Irish workers of Isaac Slack's day. Toward the end of the century the demographics again shifted with Hispanic families making their homes in houses once built by Isaac Slack. As Toughkenamon's industrial era came to an end, the town slowly returned to a country village with homes and a few service businesses.

The New Garden Historical Commission would like to copy your old pictures of life in Toughkenamon, including photos of houses, barns and industry. If you have pictures you would be willing to share, please contact Peg Jones at Marg251@aol.com or 610-268-2363.

Boy Scout Develops Cross Country Course

Harrison Mann, son of Bill and Katie Mann, has nearly completed a Troup 24 Boy Scout Eagle Project to develop a 5K (3.2 mile) cross country course at the New Garden Township Park. This course will take the streets of Kennett and provide in the Park, a permanent, measured and marked track for practicing. Harrison, who planned, laid out and marked the course on Township land, had help from KHS Cross Country Coach John Ferraro and Township Director of Public Services, Joe Yakscoe. With assistance from student and adult volunteers, Harrison planted 28 posts (markers), the lumber for which was generously donated by Peter Lumber. Harrison's Eagle Scout project adds yet one more Park resource to be enjoyed by everyone: the cross country teams, their spectators and all those who enjoy running or walking in the Park.



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You Can be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

Polluted stormwater run-off is the greatest threat to clean water. Practice these healthy household habits and you will be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution.

Healthy Household Habits:

1. Keep your nearest storm drain clear of debris and litter.
2. Never dump anything down a storm drain.
3. Use fertilizers sparingly.
4. Use pesticides only when necessary.
5. Do not blow grass clippings or leaves into the street.
6. Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down paved areas.
7. Compost or recycle yard waste.
8. Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly.
9. Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved area.
10. Service your car regularly to prevent leaks onto paved areas.
11. Dispose of household hazardous waste at designated collection locations.
12. Produce less waste — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
13. Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled or recyclable products whenever possible.
14. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected at least every three years



Mushroom Industry Historians Wanted

The Historical Commission is seeking people who might be interested in collecting pictures and helping to research the history of the mushroom industry in the Township. Anyone who would like to work on this project should contact Peg Jones, e-mail: Marg251@aol.com.

Construction and Demolition Permits - You must have a permit if you wish to build or demolish a structure. BOCA Code for 1990 is in effect. Applications are available at the Township Building. Building Inspector Don Suckstorf (610-869-2007) is at the Township Building every Wednesday afternoon to provide assistance.