

## The Continuing Saga of Jinny Springen's Story of Camp Hill Part 3

At the foot of South 16th Street stood the Camp Hill railroad station on the Cumberland Valley Railroad, which became the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was called the White Hill station, due to the use of the name Camp Hill just across the tracks in Lower Allen Township where there remains the Camp Hill Station on what was the Reading Railroad line. The grade

was lowered and the 17th Street Bridge was built replacing the 18th Street crossing.



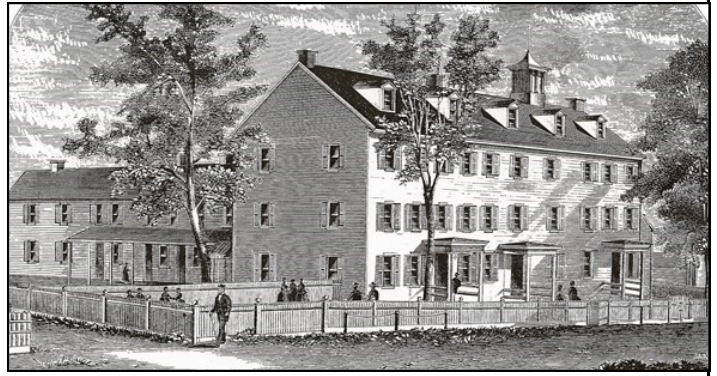
Above is the White Hill Station at South 18th St. White Hill Passenger Shelter is shown at South 16th St. ⇒



A firehouse was built at South 22nd and Market Streets in 1908. It housed the town's first fire engine, a chemical truck that was pulled by the milkman's horses, or hitched to a passing trolley, or pulled by the firemen themselves. The building was enlarged to accommodate the Police Department and Borough offices.



There was a large meeting room on the second floor. The building has been repurposed for commercial use following the departure of the fire company, etc. to a new building on Walnut Street behind the old Soldiers' Orphans' School.



John Denlinger was the first headmaster of the Whitehall Academy along the Great Road going eastward from 22nd Street. There was a large, long building for the students living quarters and classrooms. Several smaller buildings served as living quarters for staff and assorted support activities (such as kitchen!) These buildings were beside and behind the school. There were kitchen gardens and orchards to the rear. The Academy closed when few students enrolled as the Civil War began.

In 1863, the Governor urged the State Congress to build schools for the soldiers' orphans. This project began with a large donation from the Pennsylvania Railroad. (\$60,000 if I recall the reports correctly.) The Whitehall Academy became one of the 37 Soldiers' Orphans' Schools in the Commonwealth. (The last one, Scotland, closed just a few years ago!) John Denlinger had not kept the school in good repair, so Col. J. Addison Moore was brought to town to supervise renovation and to run the school, which he did to a very satisfactory standard.

After the school closed in 1899, J.C. Lester Holler purchased the property and used the buildings for his electrical and farm equipment sales. He repurposed the large building as rental townhouse type apartments.



THE OLD ORPHANS SCHOOL, Camp Hill, Pa.

The students, boys and girls, were educated and trained for vocations such as housekeeping and farming. At their 16th birthday, they were declared “graduated” and sent out into the world. They later formed an alumni group calling themselves the Sixteeners.



In 1926 the Sixteeners placed a monument to their school and their classmates, in Willow Park. The small statue of a boy in military type uniform has disappeared, but the “obelisk” remains. Nine of the hundreds of children who attended the school are buried in the Camp Hill Cemetery, behind the school (between 21st and 23rd Streets. Between the Church of God and my former house!)

Our town’s third historical marker stands in Willow Park at 24th Street. It honors a son of Tobias Hendricks, Jr., William Hendricks who led men from the County to New York State and on to Canada where they were defeated, but made way for other Revolutionary War regiments to be successful. William Hendricks lost his life in this battle.

One block south on 24th Street stands the Camp Hill High School. It is on the site of the original twelve-year school built in 1907.

Additions were made every few years, with a “final” one in 1937. The original school and its additions, with the exception of the 1937 one, were demolished in 1952.



There have been a few more additions, demolitions and rebuilds since then. The building now houses the Middle and High Schools. (Middle School is on the Chestnut St side, and the High School is on the South 24th St. side.)

Oh my, those poor Mothers who had to wash and iron these “every day clothes!” In the last column is a photo of Miss Allen, first grade teacher, on the front steps with her class. This was taken before 1926, because that



was the year Lincoln School was built and she relocated and taught there into the 1950’s. She was beloved – and taught her students to recognize a great number of birds and bird-calls. You could tell a Lincoln School pupil from a Schaeffer School one in high school through their knowledge, or lack thereof, of birds!

There was a limestone quarry between 28th and 29th Streets, south of Market Street, under the current Central Avenue homes. This was an active quarry into the 1920’s. Most houses built in Camp Hill before 1925 have the walls of their basements constructed with blocks of this limestone. The quarry was used (illegally) as a town dump for a few decades.

In the 1950’s, it was filled in and homes were constructed over it - homes that subsequently had settlement problems! (more next issue.)

## History Day

By Judith Patton

What comes to mind when confronted with the subject, “Breaking Barriers in History”?

That’s the theme that 6th through 12th graders in area public and private schools have been developing projects for National History Day. An annual theme is selected that is broad enough to encourage investigations of topics ranging from local to world history and from ancient time to recent past.

They have a choice of creating a project in documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and web-site categories. National History Day is a year-long academic program focusing on historical research, interpretation and creative expression. Group and individual competitions are held in junior and senior divisions.

In developing on their projects, students become writers, filmmakers, web designers, playwrights and artists. Their work is judged starting on the local level in their schools, followed by regional, state and finally national competitions.

Region 8 judging will be held **March 7** at Messiah College, Grantham. Three-person panel of judges made up of historians, educators and volunteers evaluate the projects for historical relation to the theme and clarity of presentation. Some members of the Historical Society of Camp Hill have served as judges. They are Eulah “Cookie” Grugan, Nead Miller, Jinny Springen and Judith Patton.

Judging is a rewarding experience to watch the students present their hard-work and to encourage another generation in history study. Judges are not aware of students’ home schools. In writing their evaluation, judges are encouraged to write positive comments which will be shared with each student.

In developing last year’s theme “Triumph and Tragedy” as part of their research, students heard voices of Holocaust survivors and former slaves; formed connections with war heroes and suffragists, and gained perspectives from scientists and inventors who had many failed attempts before success. Also relative to the theme were stories of well-known historical figures or unknown stories, according to a NHD press release.

National History Day was created in 1974 by Dr. David Van Tassel at Case Western Reserve University to improve the teaching and learning of interest in history. It has grown from a few hundred students to more than a half a million students throughout the world and involves more than 30,000 teachers. Judges are needed for the regional competition.

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