

Book out just in time



*Lou
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Commentary

A new book on the history of Warrington Township is out just in time for the township's 275th anniversary.

"Warrington" is the work of township residents Mary Doyle Roth and Kenneth Samen, officers of the Warrington

Historical Society.

The 240-page history contains more than 200 photographs and captions that illustrate the township's long past. The book is a part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series.

"There are pictures of places that no longer exist and buildings and areas that still exist, but you would have a hard time recognizing them, compared to the way they look today," said Roth who, except for a brief sojourn in Doylestown, has lived her entire life in Warrington.

The book contains plenty of interesting anecdotes. Take, for example, the photos of the old, two-story stone mansion at the intersection of Easton and Bristol roads.

The building today is the Warrington branch office of Hatboro Federal Savings, 1401 Easton Road. But it dates back to the 18th century when John Barclay purchased the property from Gideon and Elizabeth Pryor in 1790 and built his mansion in 1799.

Benjamin Hough bought the Barclay House and property in 1833. One of its frequent guests would become a hero of the Civil War and 18th president of the United States.

Young Ulysses S. Grant, a cousin of the Houghs, spent his vacations there while a cadet at the U.S.

Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., between 1839 and 1843.

There are also some good photos of the County Line School House. A school had existed at the site on County Line Road near Lower State Road and the Village of Eureka since the 1750s. A new one-room school house was built in the late 1850s, one of four that served the township, and continued in operation until 1928 when it became a private residence.

The township owns the building now, and co-author Samen said one of the historical society's long-range goals is to locate its headquarters there. The society has the old school house bell that used to summon the children to class.

You might get a kick out of the photo in the book of an old receipt for the payment of school taxes to the Warrington School District. Dated Sept. 16, 1929, it indicates that Emily Schlesler paid her school tax for the year ending July 1930. The amount was a whopping \$12.

Samen and Roth are grateful to the dozens of township residents who contributed old photos and their stories for the book.

"Warrington" is on sale at area bookstores and online retailers or through Arcadia Publishing

(www.arcadiapublishing.com.)

It is also available at the Warrington Township Building for \$21.99. Profits from the sale of the book go to the Warrington Historical Society. Buying it directly from the society at the township building, Roth said, is more advantageous to the local group, a profit of about 40 percent versus 8 percent from sales by a retailer.

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