

Spotlight of local history.....The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation

In the mid 1960's, the state of Pennsylvania purchased 2,490 acres of farmland in Edgemont Township, Delaware County, to create Ridley Creek State Park. At the same time a group of people interested in historic sites and the American Revolutionary period joined together to preserve, protect and register the old houses within the new park. They called themselves the Bishop's Mill Historical Society, after a nearby mill village known in the 20th century as Sycamore Mills.

An offshoot of the Society, the Bishop's Mill Historical Society Institute, eventually turned an abandoned 250 year old working farm within the park, into a 112 acre colonial farm or "plantation". The aptly named Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation is complete with an 18th restored farmhouse, a stone cabin, springhouse and two barns.

This plantation is a living example of a typical southeastern Pennsylvanian working farm operating with the methods and implements of colonial America. The people and activities of the Plantation represent more than the 18th century Pratt family who owned the property from 1720-1820. Consistent with the findings of local research into religious and tax records, wills and letters of the 1760-1790 period, the Plantation represents a broader view of early American life, an authentic demonstration of how most people in this area lived during colonial times. **Tree trivia: It is suggested that it took 10 to 20 acres of woodland to keep a single fireplace burning for a year in colonial times.***

In addition to weekend general public events and tours, the Plantation provides workshops and educational programs for preschool and kindergarten as well as Summer Camps. It is a year round working farm complete with plenty of animals (horses, cows, bulls, sheep, goats, chickens, ducks, ++), and is open to the public on weekends from April to early December. Children under 4 are admitted free of charge.

Phone number is 610 566 1725 www.colonialplantation.org Lots of pages of information on this website.

Of historic note: RememberBattle of Brandywine September 11, 1777
www.brandywinebattlefield.org 224 years later September 11, 2001

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"

-George Santayana

Historic trivia: When the flag of the United States was first designed, the stars had six points. Betsy Ross suggested they be changed to five.

Please visit the Historical Commission portion of the township website for further information.

Ric Miller
Historical Commission Chairman

"When the well is dry, we will know the worth of water" – Ben Franklin