

Prophecy Creek

Site of an American Revolution Skirmish

BY CAROL KALOS, PRESIDENT, WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Prophecy Creek Park, located along Skippack Pike at Narcissa Road, consists of 82 acres preserved by Whippain Township and used as a lovely event site for weddings and corporate meetings. The grounds include a public trail, the creek (which flows into the Wissahickon Creek), a restored Manor House, and a picturesque red barn with its stone silo.

Richard Whitpain acquired this land from William Penn. In 1728 at the Prophecy Creek location, George Kastner bought 200 acres of forest. In 1777, Patriot and British troops skirmished here after the Battle of Germantown, at Rex's Bridge, built over the creek and in those days called Oil Mill Run. Afterward, farmers found cannonballs in their fields.

A history of the area tells how, in 1931, the owner of what was then called the Woodrow Farm accidentally destroyed the main house when she burned her Christmas tree in the fireplace. The property was later owned by preservation-minded C. Mahon Kline of the Smith-Kline-French Laboratories and in 1976 by Robert and Lynne Thomson. The township acquired the land thanks to the efforts of area residents to save this open space.

Author Carol Kalos is president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, a nonprofit group with its headquarters and museum at the 1895 School. Area residents are welcome to visit the three floors of local history exhibits. WVHS also owns the one-room Franklinville School on Morris Road. Both schools appear on the National Register of Historic Places. WVHS hosts a monthly speakers' series, and the events are free and open to the public. For details, email to Info@WValleyHS.org.

