

SPRINGFIELD HISTORY & TRIVIA

- * The **LENNI LENAPE INDIANS** (or Delaware) were the first inhabitants of the area. The first white man arrived in 1728 and set up a trading post with the Indians. He was soon followed by English, Scotch, Irish and Germans who cleared the land and began farming during the next 100 years.
- * **SPRINGFIELD** got its name from the abundant springs that often inundated area fields.
- * The **FIRST LOTTERY** held in Springfield was in 1735. William Penn's sons decided to sell 4000 acres of land by lottery. The drawing was never held but, eventually, lottery ticket holders were allowed to secure deed to the land. These acres were known as the "Lottery Lands of Springfield Township."
- * The **WALKING PURCHASE**, which transferred lands from the Lenni Lenape Indians to the white settlers took place on September 19 and 20, 1737. Its walkers stopped for lunch along a tributary of Cook's Creek in Springfield. A monument marking the site is located about a mile west of Springtown on Rt. 412.
- * **SPRINGTOWN** started out in 1737 as a village of 6-8 dwellings, a tavern and store. The first land purchase also took place in 1737.
- * The **FIRST PROTEST** in Springfield was in 1743. One group of settlers opposed another group who petitioned the court to organize the township. The petitioners won and Springfield Township was surveyed and laid out that year.
- * **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION** came to Springfield in 1763 for the first time.
 - A **stagecoach** ran between Bethlehem and Philadelphia travelling the King's Highway on what is now parts of Route 212 and 412. The stage stopped when the railroad came in 1857.
 - The **Q & E** (Quakertown and ~~Easton~~ ^{Eastern} RR) carried freight and passengers with a siding behind Weierbach's store and landings at Cooks Creek and Haults Bridge Roads.
 - ← The **Liberty Bell Trolley** ran through Zion Hill from 1912-1951 from Bethlehem to Philadelphia. There is no public transportation in Springfield at present.
- * **POPULATION STATISTICS** for 1784 show Springfield to be one of the largest and most populated townships in Bucks County. There were 979 inhabitants and 166 dwellings.
 - By 1960 there were 3,085 inhabitants and 993 dwellings.
 - By 1990 that increased to 5,177 residents and _____ dwellings.
- * Springfield's **FIRST ROAD SIGNS** appeared in 1793. You can check one out in front of the church school on Route 212. It reads "44 M to P" (Philadelphia).
- * The **FIRST POST OFFICE** opened in Springtown in 1806. Eventually there were 5 post offices in the villages of Springtown, Zion Hill, Passer, Pleasant Valley and Bursonville. At present 8 post offices serve Springfield- Springtown, Zion Hill, Coopersburg, Quakertown, Kintnersville, Riegelsville, Richlandtown and Hellertown.
- * By the 1840's Springfield had **SIX VILLAGES** within its boundaries - Springtown, Pleasant Valley, Passer, Zion Hill, Gruversville and Rocky Valley. Only three have survived the passage of time - Springtown, Pleasant Valley and Zion Hill.
- * The **SPRINGTOWN FIRE BRIGADE** was formed in 1855 and continues today. Because of the far reaching township area and insurance requirements, five other fire companies also cover township territories. They are Coopersburg, Haycock, Richlandtown and Shelly plus Leithsville for mutual assistance calls.

- * The **PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM** opened in 1861 in 11 one-room schoolhouses with 17 teachers. The last one-room school closed in June, 1981.
- * The **FIRST TELEGRAPH LINES** were erected in Springfield By Franklin Tel & Tel in 1882.
- * The **SPRINGTOWN WEEKLY TIMES NEWSPAPER** was printed from 1885-1918. It was an eight page paper and a year's subscription sold for \$1.00.
- * **GEORGE WASHINGTON** and **GENERAL LAFAYETTE** also slept in Springfield Township. Legend has it that Washington visited a hunting lodge on Salem Road while Lafayette spent a night at the first Pleasant Valley Inn on Old Bethlehem Road.
- * In 1964, **FARM LAND** and **OPEN FIELDS** accounted for 63.5% of the township's total acreage with 29.7% in woods and water for a total of 93.2%. There were 823 acres (4%) used for dwellings and 389 acres (2%) used for roads. The remaining 1% of the township's acreage was for commercial, industrial and public uses.
- * There are **97 MILES OF ROADS** in Springfield. Of these, 34 miles are state roads and 63 miles are township roads. Many of the roads follow old Indian trails such as Old Bethlehem Pike formerly the old Minsi Trail.
- * Springfield's **FLINT HILL** at 980 feet is the highest point in Bucks County.
- * The original **LASSIE** is buried on her favorite hill in Springfield Township. Her owner, author Eric Knight, was born in England but settled on a farm in Springfield Township where he wrote his famous book "Lassie Come Home" and where his family still resides.
- * Springfield Township is the **THIRD LARGEST MUNICIPALITY** in terms of land area in Bucks County. It measures 31.35 square miles.
- * **BLACK GRANITE** from a quarry on Quarry Road was used in the pedestal for President Kennedy in Washington and for Stonewall Jackson's statue.