

Summer 2018

# KING OF PRUSSIA NEWS

Information for  
the Community



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Upper Merion has a rich history and fascinating geology. We have both Civil War and Revolutionary War veterans buried in a local cemetery, we have the still-standing home of the chief matron (nurse) of Camp Letterman - the field hospital that treated thousands of wounded after the Battle of Gettysburg, we have an inn that was crawling with spies while Washington camped at Valley

Forge, and much more. We also have a unique band of limestone running through the district that may well be responsible for almost every significant fact about our area.

On Saturday, June 16, 2018, recent and long time residents of Upper Merion enjoyed the King of Prussia Historical Society's first **Historic Tours of Upper Merion**. Several historic sites were visited during the three hour tour on a mini bus. Two of the stops included:

**Anna Holstein's House** - Anna Morris Holstein was a Civil War nurse and founder of the Valley Forge chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her advocacy for the preservation of Washington's headquarters directly led to the eventual creation of Valley Forge State Park.



**Lime Kiln and Quarry** - Large in the industry of early Upper Merion was the quarrying of lime stone. Remnants of a lime kiln and a quarry at the corner of Saulin Boulevard and DeKalb Pike, now an Aqua PA reservoir, recall those days.

Find more local history at [kophistory.org](http://kophistory.org) and watch for news of future tours.



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## The Limestone Valley

Five hundred million years ago, there was a vast inland sea on the North American continent. Shellfish and crustaceans lived in the shallower parts – over time their shells got buried and compressed into limestone. 150 million years ago, Africa collided with the Americas (Pangaea!) and broke a long strip of that limestone to the surface.

In the long years since, it eroded into an elongated narrow valley – The Great Valley, or Chester Valley – convenient for travel and very fertile for farming. Limestone was quarried here for many years, as well as King of Prussia Bluestone – a sort of incompletely metamorphosed marble which was used for decorative purposes for many years. The limestone, being water soluble, has unfortunately also given rise to the many sinkholes we have.

Upper Merion lies at one end of that valley. The first roads followed that valley west to Lancaster, making King of Prussia a natural hub of travel. Today it continues in that role to a much greater extent, sitting as it does at the confluence of US 202, the PA Turnpike, the Schuylkill Expressway, the Blue Route, and US 422. But it remains a valley, bounded by the Conshohocken Hills in the south and the North Valley Hills in the north.

