

A brief summary,  
of how Whitpain Township and its Citizens,  
Volunteered,  
and have been involved,  
in America's Major Wars

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Local Memorials Honoring U.S. Veteran's of various wars

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List of U.S. Veteran's interred in Whitpain Township

The information in this Booklet was taken from the:

Diaries of Mrs. Bertha Beideman Rezer,

The records of Boehm's and St. John's Churches

The Memorial Volume of the Whitpain Ladies Aid Society  
published in 1869, by J. A. Wagenseller, 23 N. Sixth Street, Philadelphia

And compiled, with some reminiscences of my own,  
and written by Bob Whittock, April 2017

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## **The Revolutionary War, and events in Whitpain Township and surrounding areas**

During the Revolutionary War, Whitpain Township and the two local Churches, Boehm's Reformed Church and St. John's Lutheran Church played a prominent role in that war.

On October 4, 1777, after the Battle of Germantown, Washington's Army of about 11,000 men were retreating up Skippack Pike with their wounded and dieing soldiers. This precession, or convoy contained not only marching soldiers, but cannons being pulled, and many supply wagons with ammunition, (both gun power and shots) food for the troops, grain and hay for the horses, etc., but also carrying the wounded and dieing soldiers and soldiers that were killed in battle. The American loss was: 152 killed, 521 wounded and 400 captured.

Some of the wounded were brought to Boehm's Church, in Pigeontown (now Blue Bell) and St. John's Church, in Centre Square, and other churches along the way, for treatment. These churches were set up as temporary Military Hospitals.

At this time medical procedures were very crude and unsanitary. If a soldier had a fracture or severe laceration, amputation was the only medical treatment, and the procedure accounted for 70% of all operations preformed on the soldiers. Then a good surgeon, meant a fast surgeon; the best could remove a limb in a few minutes. Most soldiers were given a drink of whiskey - the most widely administered medicine - a gun cartage and were grimly and literally told to "Bite the Bullet." No doubt some of those soldiers died in Boehm's and St. John's Churches and were buried in their cemeteries, in unmarked graves. To survive the operating table only meant the likelihood of getting gangrene or other little-understood infections. The doctors had no understanding of antiseptic conditions in hospitals, let alone on the battlefield. The surgeons used the same knives and saws all day, wiping them on a bloody apron. One quarter of soldiers with amputations, resulted in death.

After leaving their wounded and dieing soldiers in local churches along the way, the majority of the troops marched twenty hard miles, on rutted dirt roads, to the Perkiomen Creek and set up camp on October 6, 1777, just West of Kulpsville. After regrouping, Washington moved his troops closer to Philadelphia, and set up camp in Worcester, Southwest of Center Point, on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

On October 21, the army left Worcester and proceeded down Skippack Pike into Whitpain for the third and last time. They camped in Whitpain at what was known as: Camp Morris." This camp stretched from what is now Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike to Butler Pike, and from Skippack Pike to Morris Road, and beyond to the Wissahickon Creek. If you counted the soldiers and their families, this camp probably held 15,000 or more people. This ground was the farm land of James Morris and George Greger.

During this encampment George Washington made his headquarters in a house, now known as "Dawsfield," owned by James Morris, on what is now known as Lewis Lane. George Greger and his wife, Catharine, owned the Northern part of the land. George, who was an Elder at Boehm's Church and Catharine, are buried in Boehm's Cemetery.

During this encampment in Whitpain desertions began to increase, and gloom began to settle on the army. Washington was hamstrung by the Colonial Militia System. Militiamen served only a limited length of time and then went home, even in the middle of a campaign. Lack of ammunition, shoes, clothing and other supplies made a direct attack on the British impossible. During this nearly two week period, they cut down many trees, to use the wood for heat to keep warm and for cooking.

On November 2, 1777, the Continental Army moved into Whitemarsh and toward the end of November reinforcements arrived, but General Howe was also getting additional troops for the British side, so little advantage was gained. During the next month there were a few skirmishes between the Americans and British, but no large battles.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Americans broke camp and marched up Skippack Pike and then across Butler Pike, on their way to Valley Forge, and made their winter camp over an area of about four square miles. During this time in Valley Forge, Washington had scouts watching against a surprise attack from the British, who were in control in Philadelphia.

On February 6, 1778, France and America signed a treaty to help one another. As spring approached, Washington,

with the help of Baron Frederick Von Steuben, from France, drilled the citizen soldiers until they formed a strong, well disciplined fighting force. News came on June 18<sup>th</sup> that the British were pulling out of Philadelphia and heading for the Jerseys. Some American units were sent out after them and on June 19, 1778, Washington's passed through Whitpain one last time, when they marched through Centre Square, on what is now Dekalb Pike, toward New Jersey and eventual victory.

### **The Civil War, and how the "Whitpain Ladies Aid Society," raised funds and contributed Supplies for the troops**

In nearly every community of Montgomery County, organized efforts were made to win popular support in non-military ways, for the Union cause in the Civil War. Men formed Union Leagues and women Relief Societies. These projects counted for much in enlisting the interest of the people.

A group of women living in Whitpain Township met on November 3, 1862, at the home of Jesse B. Fisher, Centre Square and organized the Aid Society, the purpose being to provide for the "aid and comfort of sick and wounded soldiers on the battlefield, in the hospitals and in the refreshment saloons at Philadelphia." Forty-three women signed the roll that day and elected Mrs. Jacob Conrad, President, Mrs. Jesse B. Fisher, Secretary, and Mrs. William Hood, Treasurer. At the second meeting, on November 15, 1862, Mrs. Fisher resigned as Secretary and Miss Sallie A. Conrad became her successor.

The new society appointed committees to collect supplies and forward them to hospitals. It was arranged to meet every Wednesday at the Centre Square Store (now the location of a Sunoco Gas Station) for sewing and other work.

A fine of 5 cents was to be imposed upon members not answering the weekly roll call, except when they were sick. Soon they were also excused in case of inclement weather. Then in December it was decided to abolish the fine but to require all members to pay dues of 5 cents a month.

The first-contribution of the society was a barrel of food, sent early in December to the Pennsylvania Relief Society, similar barrels and boxes of food, clothing and hospital supplies were thereafter packed at frequent intervals, many sent to military hospitals at Chestnut Hill.

Funds had to be raised to buy goods needed by the workers. For this purpose a lecture course was arranged. The first lecture was on January 1, 1863, in Franklinville Hall. It may puzzle latter-day residents of Whitpain Township to identify Franklinville Hall. Franklinville was a hamlet at the intersection of Morris Road and State Road, now Dekalb Pike. There was a hotel here at that time, and over the hotel stable was a room called Franklinville Hall.

The lecturer was Rev. P.M. Rightmyer, pastor of the Lutheran charge comprising St. John's Church, Centre Square, and St. Peter's, North Wales. The women of the society had a refreshment table at this and subsequent lectures. From the sale of tickets and refreshments, a net profit of \$19.49 was realized. The lecturer charged no fee, and in appreciation of his aid, the society gave him and his family tickets to the ensuing lecture.

George W. Rogers, a Norristown lawyer, was the lecturer on February 9, 1863, the scene being Gerhard's Hall, which was the hall at the Centre Square Hotel. The March 3<sup>rd</sup> lecture was in Whitcomb's Hall, at the Blue Bell Hotel.

It was now decided to try a new kind of entertainment. Signor Blitz, a popular magician of the day was engaged to perform in Gerhard's Hall. While the gross receipts were larger than the lecturers, still the lecturers usually made no charges for their services, while it was necessary to pay the magician \$29.50, so the net profit was only \$19.53. However, Signor Blitz was so well received, that it was at once agreed to have him again on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, for an afternoon and evening show in Gerhard's Hall. This time the net profit was \$92.42, of which \$33.20 came from the sale of refreshments.

Lectures and other entertainment continued monthly and attracted such large audiences, that it proved desirable to have larger quarters than were afforded by hotel halls. For January 21, 1864, Rev. Erwin A. Hutter, an eloquent Lutheran clergyman, of Philadelphia, was engaged to lecture and an application was made of Boehm's Reformed Church, Blue Bell, to have the lecture in that church.

At its next meeting the society was surprised to learn that the consistory refused to permit the church to be used for the lecture. Thereupon St. John's Lutheran Church, Centre Square, was offered for the purpose, and there the lecture was given, netting \$26.00.



Another feature from which the society received the proceeds was a concert in the Union Meeting House, a mile Southeast of Centre Square. (This church remained vacant for many years. The church was desecrated and vandalized and the cemetery deteriorated and was densely overgrown. In 1947, extensive work was done to restore the building to a useable condition and the cemetery to its former appearance. In the year 2013, the "Reformation Church, of Blue Bell," meet and hold services in this building, on Union Meeting Road.)

On May 19, 1864, the society gave a concert in the Agricultural Hall. This was the most ambitious effort up to that time. The hall was a large building on the Fair Grounds, at Springtown, near Dekalb Pike and Germantown Pike. For this occasion, Isaac B. Evans, Caleb R. Hallowell and Augustus W. Dettra were appointed door tenders. The proceeds were \$34.55.

Another entertainment was given in the same hall, December 8, 1864, when the program was provided by a Glee Club from Norristown and the Kulpville Brass Band. Adults tickets cost 25 cents and those of children 15 cents. This proved the most profitable of all the entertainments, \$118.90 being left after paying expenses.

Two nights later, Captain Calhoun, of Kentucky, who was lecturing in Montgomery County, spoke at the same hall, for the benefit of the society, telling about life in Libby Prison and \$20.00 was added to the society's treasury.

Additional lectures were held at Franklinville Hall, August 22, 1863, Broad Axe Hall, Broad Axe, February 9, 1865 and various other lectures at Gerhard's Hall, Centre Square.

The secretary regretted that no account was ever kept of the different contributions of cakes, fruit and of the cream for making ice cream, furnished by the society for refreshment tables. The manufacturing of ice cream, confectioneries, etc., were purchased from funds of the society.

At their last meeting on March 31, 1866, the treasurer reported since the commencement of the society she had received cash in contributions, monthly fees, and from the net profits arising from lectures, concerts, entertainments and also from refreshment tables furnished by the society at said gatherings, a total of \$752.66; expenses by the society for groceries, canning and preserving fruit, purchasing flannel, calicoes, thread, needles, quilting cotton, etc., \$649.61; balance left in treasury, March 31, 1866, \$103.05. It was *Resolved* to forward said stores and the balance of cash to the Soldier's Home in Philadelphia.

A Publishing Committee was instructed to have the society minutes printed and bound.

From when the Whitpain Ladies Aid Society was organized on November 3, 1862, until their final meeting on March 31, 1866, they packed and forwarded: food - hand made cloths - such as flannel shirts - stockings - pants - slippers - quilted comforters - towels - bandaging - pillows - reading matters - castile soap, etc. to the following hospitals: Fifth & Master Streets Hospital, Philadelphia - Chestnut Hill Hospital - Sanitary Commission, via North Pennsylvania Railroad - Falmouth Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee, via Christian Commission - the Soldier's Home, Philadelphia - to Dr. Holstein, Winchester, Virginia - to Petersburg, Virginia, for the soldiers that credited themselves to Whitpain Township - to Richmond, Virginia, by request of G.W. Holstein.

The society before adjourning would state, in closing our accounts, that we sincerely hope and trust that the efforts we made to collect, manufacture and forward contributions to our brave brethren who have gone forth to battle and destroy this wicked rebellion, that came near destroying our once happy and prosperous country, have had their effect in assisting to relieve many of our weary soldiers during sickness and suffering, and their long and tiresome marches, whilst far away from home, their friends, and domestic firesides. We close, praying God, in His infinite mercy, may bring peace and happiness to our divided country. We also hope and pray that the heroes who have fallen at the post of duty or pined away by sickness, those that died of hunger and thirst in the rebel prisons, or were foully murdered whilst in captivity, have been received at the kingdom of glory and holiness, where the weary spirit rests in peace and happiness for ever and ever.

It was then moved that we adjourn, *sine die*. It was unanimously carried.

#### Events leading up to, **World War I,**

On June 16, 1907, Soldiers were camping at Zieber's Park, in West Point, for 2 days.

On July 7, 1907, Soldiers were encamping at Mt. Gretua, in Perkasio.

On June 27, 1908, Company F, 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, are camping at Zieber's Park, in West Point, for 2 days.

On June 20, 1909, Soldiers are camping at Zieber's Park, in West Point, for 2 days.

On June 18, 1913, The New Jersey Monument to the Memory of the Continental Soldiers who withstood the Privations or were buried in Valley Forge was unveiled. Miss Eleanor Wilson pulled the cord unveiling the monument.

On July 4, 1913, There was a big time at Gettysburg last week of a reunion of Veterans who fought on the Battle Field during the Civil War. Quite a few died from the heat during the reunion.

On Nov. 20, 1913, War was declared with Mexico.

On July 23, 1914. About 25 or 30 Mounted Soldiers went past Center Square on Dekalb Pike.

### **Registration for the Military, in Whitpain Township, 1911 - 1918**

On May 4, 1911, Mrs. Rezer wrote that her & Ed Rezer copied a number of names out the book for the Militia Rolls. (Mr. Rezer had been elected as the Assessor of Whitpain Township in 1910. He went out and assessed properties & made a list of the occupants of those properties. Apparently this was also used to make of list for the Militia Rolls.)

On Aug. 19, 1912, Mrs. Rezer wrote a letter to the War Department & her husband Ed received a book from the Court House to fill out.

On Aug. 24, 1912, Mrs. Rezer received a Postal from The War Department.

On March 13, 1913, Mrs. Rezer finished writing the Militia names in a book, from Mr. Rezer's list

On March 14, 1913, Mr. Rezer took his Militia Books to the Court House & received a payment of \$76.03.

On Feb. 16, 1917, Ed Rezer was out assessing & Ed & Bertha Rezer wrote a Militia list in the evening.

On May 28, 1917, Ed Rezer received cards for a registration list for war enlistments, from Sheriff Nagle, for June 5<sup>th</sup>.

On June 5, 1917, There was a registration at the Whitpain Polling place, for men, ages 21 to 31.

On July 20, 1917, Quite a number of young men were calling Ed Rezer, for their serial number of the Draft.

On Sept. 28, 1917, Charles Beideman & Howard Baker went to Norristown, to be examined for the Draft.

On Dec. 7, 1918, Mrs. Rezer finished the Militia & Assessment Books.

### **Men and Women leaving for World War I, etc.**

On June 24, 1916, "Company F," left Norristown for Mt. Gretna, in Perkasio, to prepare for war, when called. There were about 10,000 people out to witness same. The largest crowd seen for a long time, for such an occasion.

On Feb. 12, 1917, Soldiers are coming home, crowds of people are going to Philadelphia to see them come in. It is feared there will be a war, everything is advancing in price.

On Feb. 19, 1917, The Soldiers came home at noon, a number of people went out to see them.

On March 7, 1917, Was the last day marriage licenses were issued until after the War was over.

On April 6, 1917, War was declared with Germany, at 1 P.M.

On Easter Sunday, April 8, 1917 - Eddystone was blown up, 119 persons were killed, mostly women.

On April 10, 1917, There was a large fire, near Abram's Station, \$50,000.00 loss, supposed to be the work of German's.

On August 30, 1917, About 75 to 100 ambulance cars, army trucks & a lot of soldiers went past Centre Square, toward Allentown, probably they had left Betzwood, after camping there.

On Sept. 12, 1917, Company F, left Norristown. They had a great parade to send them off.

On Sept. 21, 1917, About 300 drafted Soldiers, left Norristown, for Fort Meade.

On Dec. 7, 1917, About 2,000 lives were lost at Halifax, by a boat of ammunition coming into the harbor & colliding with another vessel.

On Dec. 28, 1917, The Government took control of the Railroads, to insure the transporting of Troops.

On Dec. 31, 1917, Earl High, from the Whitpain High, Class of 1909, wrote a letter to the Whitpain Alumni, from Columbus, Ohio, stating he was in the Medical Corp.

On May 20, 1918, Howell Seiple, from the Whitpain High Class of 1912, left for Jacksonville, Florida. He had enlisted in the Ordinance Corps.

On Nov. 7, 1918, In Centre Square, all whistles, etc. blew, announcing Peace Terms, the Armistice was supposed to have been signed.

On Nov. 11, 1918, An Armistice was signed ending World War I. Whistles commenced to blow at 3:15 A.M., announcing Peace, the Armistice had been signed. They kept up real loud for 3 or 4 hours. All work was stopped, in Norristown, Germantown, Philadelphia, etc. They all had Parades, etc. At 8 P.M., the Centre Square Fire Company & the State Defense League, paraded out Dekalb Pike.

On Nov. 12, 1918, The Centre Square Fire Company again paraded, in the evening.

On Feb. 19, 1919, There was a Peace Conference, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Norristown, in the evening.

On April 15, 1919, Anna Murphy arrived home. She served as a Nurse in World War I, & had been absent 2 years in August.

On Thursday, May 15, 1919, there was no work on account of "Welcome Home Day," proclaimed a Legal Holiday, by the Governor on Pennsylvania.

On June 14, 1919, Mrs. Campbell gave a dance in the Centre Square Fire Hall, in Honor of her brother who had returned from the war.

On Tuesday, July 15, 1919, Howell Seiple arrived home at 11 A.M. He had been Mustered out Monday.

### **Fund Drives and Patriot Events, during World War I**

On Saturday, Oct. 6, 1917, the Red Cross held a Chicken Supper at the new Whitpain High School, to earn money for the War effort.

On Oct. 25, 1917, There was a parade in Norristown, of Liberty Loan, etc. in the evening.

On Feb. 17, 1918, the Lutheran Brotherhood had a meeting at St. John's Church, regarding raising money for the Soldiers.

On Saturday, April 19, 1918, there were Great Liberty Loan speeches, in Norristown, in the evening.

On Saturday, April 26, 1918, It was declared a Holiday, on account of Liberty Loan. In the evening there was a Liberty Loan Parade, in Norristown, quite a large affair.

On April 29, 1918, About 200 soldiers passed through Centre Square, in 20 autos, from Betzwood, they had been to the Liberty Loan Parade. Ed Rezer took out a \$50. Liberty Loan Bond, Charles Rezer, \$100. & Horace Rezer, \$50.

On Sunday, May 19, 1918, Rev. F.F. Haworth Gave a Sermon, at St. John's Church, on the "War Chest" referring to World War I.

On Saturday, May 25, 1918, There was a Flag Raising Ceremony, near the new Centre Square Fire House. Ambler Williams gave an address, Charles Roynan, raised the Flag & School Children sang Patriot songs.

On June 27, 1918, A Euchre & Dance was held at night, at Centre Square, for the Benefit of the Soldier's Fund.

On Sept. 27, 1918, There was a Great Liberty Loan Parade in Norristown, in the evening.

On Sept. 28, 1918, Registration Day, \$20,000.00 in Bonds were sold in Centre Square. Margie & Margaret Seiple, Lillie Halberstadt & Anna Haag, attended to the sells.

### **Home Defense and Fuel Conservation, during World War I**

On June 10, 1918, Ed Rezer attended a Home Defense League Meeting, in the evening. He received a Badge, Whistle, Billy Club & a Arm Shield, to be worn in a emergency.

On July 18, 1918, Ed Rezer attended a Meeting of the Home Defense Guards, at Centre Square Fire House.

On Sunday, Sept. 1, 1918, Automobiles were very few today, the suggestion was made by the Fuel Administrators, that pleasure seeking must be cut out and only use autos when necessary on Sundays.

On Friday, Nov. 11, 1921, Armistice Day - Whistles blew at 11 A.M.. at Washington D.C., a disarmament was being arranged, for all the countries, that were being represented.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, 1922, Armistice Day was Celebrated.

On Aug. 9, 1924, The soldiers were sending 1,000,000,000 Candle Power Light Rays, over the ocean in Rehoboth Beach, in the evening.

On Sept. 12, 1924, Was National Defense Day, a half Holiday most everywhere.

On Nov. 11, 1924, Armistice Day - Whistles blew at 11 A.M.  
 On Nov. 11, 1925, Armistice Day - Whistles blew at 11 A.M.  
 On Nov. 11, 1927 - Armistice Day - at 11 O'clock the whistles blew.  
 On Dec. 19, 1927, Alfred Maginley, son of Joseph Maginley, was lost at sea, in a Submarine.  
 On Jan. 5, 1928, Alfred Maginley body & several others, was raised from the sea. These men perished about 2 weeks ago, in a submarine, near Boston, Mass.  
 On Jan. 9, 1928, Alfred Maginley was buried at Arlington Cemetery, Washington D.C.  
 On Aug. 4, 1928, Walter Cassel (Mary Ella Whittock's brother) came home from camp for just 1 day.

**America stayed neutral**, while Wars were raging in Europe and Asia, in the 30's & early 40's,  
 On Jan. 31, 1932, War was declared between China & Japan. Marines & several war vessels were sent to Shanghai from the U.S.A.  
 On Sept. 15, 1938, War was called off, Mussolini interceded for all, General Peace.  
 On Sept. 1, 1939, War was declared between Germany & Poland.  
 On Sunday, Sept. 3, 1939, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of War, General Prayers for Peace.  
 On Sept. 8, 1939, About 2,300 men & a line of trucks, etc., reaching about 20 miles, passed through Center Square, coming from the World's Fair in New York, to Kentucky, about 9:30 A.M. It was Section 12 M.C.  
 On May 12, 1941, Rudolph Hess, a close friend of Hitler's, dropped in parachute from airplane in England, coming from Germany.

## **Major Events during World War II**

On Dec. 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. News came over radio, that war was declared with Japan.  
 On Dec. 12, 1941, War was declared with Italy & Germany.  
 On Jan. 26, 1942, The 1<sup>st</sup> troops of the U.S.A. arrived in Ireland. There was a First Aid Meeting at the High School.  
 On Jan. 26, 1943, At 10 P.M. announcement came over radio, that President Roosevelt had flown about 3,500 miles & Churchill about 1,500, to meet Allies & hold a Conference 10 days ago. They have rendered an unconditional surrender verdict. Some were expecting still greater news. The 1<sup>st</sup> time a President ventured across the ocean during War Time.  
 On June 6, 1944, The Invasion was announced.  
 On April 12, 1945, At 3:35 P.M. President F.D. Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia, with a Cerebral Hemorrhage, quite suddenly. It came over the radio about 5:30 P.M.  
 On Friday, April 13, 1945, Harry S. Truman was sworn in as President of the United States, at 7:09 P.M.  
 On Saturday, April 14, 1945, Services were conducted for President Roosevelt, at the White House, at 4 P.M. everything on radio is in keeping with Eulogy for President, Music, etc. he was laid out in a Copper covered Mahogany Casket, weighing 900 lbs.  
 \*During W.W. II, Eugene Geiger was Pullman Conductor on the Railroad & he would also pull 12 hour shifts of Station Duty, at either Norristown or Philadelphia.  
 On April 30, 1945, Newspapers state that Mussolini was killed, also mistress.  
 On May 2, 1945, It was reported that Hitler is dead.  
 On Tuesday, May 8, 1945, V.E. Day was announced at 9 A.M., by President Truman. He is 61 years old. Radio broadcast news all day, regards V.E. Day.  
 On Aug. 8, 1945, Russia entered the War, against the Jap's.  
 On Aug. 12, 1945, About 9:33 P.M. it was announced over the radio regards Peace Terms, which were not correct.  
 On Aug. 14, 1945, A lot of news over the radio, regards false report. At 7 P.M., the Peace announcement came, Whistles blew & great noises, but it was not official, as yet.  
 On Wednesday, Aug. 15, 1945, A Holiday, for most all people, also tomorrow.  
 On Saturday, Sept. 1, 1945, Peace Terms were signed tonight, General MacArthur had a lot to do with it.



On Sunday, Sept. 2, 1945, Was a Day of Prayer for Peace.

On Thursday evening, Nov. 8, 1945, A Community Fellowship Night was held at Bethel Church.

On Nov. 12, 1945, The Armistice is being celebrated quite a lot.

On Nov. 22, 1945 - Thanksgiving Day - Fireman's Parade in Norristown, the 1<sup>st</sup> since 1941.

On Friday afternoon, Feb. 21, 1947, Was a Day of Prayer Service in Salvation Building, Norristown.

### **Whitpain Township men leaving to Serve in the U.S. Armed Forces**

On March 24, 1941, Kenneth Chalk left for camp today, from Norristown, for Va., for 1 year, was drafted.

On July 22, 1942, Jim Lentz left for the Army.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, 1942, James Baker left for Cornell University near Ithica, N.Y. for a 12 week course, to become an Ensign. Expects to enlist in Navy.

On Aug. 21, 1942, Joe Zornek came home from Florida for a few days, expects to have schooling in Virginia for 3 months, then receive title of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

On Nov. 29, 1942, Kenneth Chalk is now a Staff Sergeant.

On Dec. 26, 1942, Ken Chalk's picture was seen on the screen, at the Norris Theater, Norristown, from New Caledonia. (An island in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean.)

On Jan. 9, 1943, At 4:30 P.M., Jim Lentz & Myrtle Morrel were married in Calvary Baptist Church, Ambler. Jim expects to go back to camp in a few days.

On Feb. 5, 1943, Bud Whittock received summons to come to Navy.

On Feb. 6, 1943, Bud Whittock left for the Navy at 6:50 A.M. ( Bud was 34 years old on 3/31/1943.)

On March 3, 1943, St. John's Church Trustees had a treat, in Honor of Bob Gilinger.

On March 29, 1943, Bob Gilinger left for the Marines, Paris Island, N. Carolina.

On May 26, 1943, Milton Allen & Robert Morris, who were in the Graduating Class at Whitpain High School, were already serving in the U.S. Military & were unable to attend their Commencement Exercises.

On June 28, 1943, Charles Baker & Walter Shaeff left for Service today.

On July 31, 1943, Donald Nolan left for camp today.

On Saturday, Aug. 7, 1943, John Robinson left for camp.

On Aug. 21, 1943, Mrs. Rezer received a card from John Robinson, he is stationed at Camp Grant, Illinois.

On Aug. 23, 1943, C. Kenneth Chalk Graduated as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., in aircraft work.

On Oct. 17, 1943, Bud Whittock came home for 1 day.

On Christmas, Dec. 25, 1943, John Robinson was home on furlough for a few days.

On Sunday, Jan. 30, 1944, Herbert Chalk leaves for the Army on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> & Ray Vandergrift leaves Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Ray enlisted.

On Feb. 8, 1944, David Swartley attended the Choir Rehearsal at St. John's, then was honored by the Choir, he is going in the Marines soon - Charles Baker was home from the Military & also attended the choir rehearsal - Charles McCracken has Graduated from a Military School & is home on a 10 day leave.

On April 12, 1944, Charles Cassel, Jr. was examined & passed the exam, expects to go in the Navy in about 3 weeks.

On May 13, 1944, Charles Cassel, Jr., left for Navy.

On July 10, 1944, Mike Snowden left for Alaska, for 1 ½ years, with the Coast Guard.

On Dec. 2, 1944, Gene Geiger received card, to be classified 1A.

On March 26, 1945, Norman McMullen (Centre Square Post Master) entered the Service today, went in Navy.

On March 28, 1945, Wilbert Vandergrift left for the Army.

On May 13, 1945, Charles Cassel, Jr., is now a Yeoman, in the Navy..

On June 26, 1945, Jack Austerberry, from St. John's Church, left for the Service.

On Sunday morning, Aug. 12, 1945, Quite a number of Soldier Boys were out for the Sunday Service at St. John's Church. McCracken's, Castner, W. Vandergrift. Bill Solliday was in civilian cloths, had a Honorable discharge some time ago.



On Friday, Oct. 5, 1945, Mike Snowden came home from the Service.  
 On Oct. 9, 1945, At 10:30 P.M., Grace Moyer, Bob Roman & the girls met Bud Whittock at Doylestown, came home from Service, Discharged.  
 On Oct. 26, 1945, Harold Swartley left for the Service.  
 On Jan. 1, 1946, Bob Gilinger came home, for 30 day leave.  
 On Jan. 15, 1946, John Robinson & Ken Chalk are home.  
 On Sunday, Feb. 24, 1946, Richard Solliday came home from the Service.  
 On Sunday, May 19, 1946, Don Nolan is home from the Service.  
 On June 20, 1946, David Swartley came out of Service, he expects to enlist again.  
 On Sunday, Sept. 22, 1946, Youth Sunday was celebrated in the evening, at St. John's Church. Charles McCracken & Don Nolan gave talks on their experiences, while in the Service.  
 On Sept. 9, 1948, Dick Strawhacker left for the Army, in Kentucky.

### **Auto Production was shut down during W.W. II**

Auto factories were shut down and retooled to make planes and war supplies. No cars were produced after February 1942. The last cars made were held in storage until government approved buyers purchased them.

Cushman Motor Works in Lincoln, Nebraska made Cushman fuel-efficient scooters for the armed forces, including a specially designed heavy-duty model called the "Airborne" that could be dropped to troops by parachute.

### **Doctors leaving for War and the New Valley Forge Military Hospital**

On Nov. 26, 1942, Dr. Joe Hunsberger closed his office & went in the Army.  
 On Dec. 5, 1942, Dr. Ginthers closed his office & went into the Army as a Lieut.  
 On Feb. 22, 1943, New Hospital at Valley Forge was opened.  
 On July 30, 1943, Dr. Blair Ronan left for Service.

### **Red Cross Sewing, during World War II**

A group of about a dozen women from the Centre Square, Blue Bell area, formed a Red Cross Sewing and met for the first time on January 6, 1942. They would met every Wednesday in the Home Economics Room in the basement of Whitpain High School.

In 1942 they met right through the summer. In 1943, 1944 and 1945, they met 10 months out of the year and took the summer off, in July and August, when school was not in session.

Some of the women that participated were: Anna Righter - Margie Seiple - Mrs. Rezer - Sara Cole - Mrs. John Davis - Mary Bernhard - Mrs. Ruth Cook - Mrs. Ludwig, and others.

Amongst the articles they made were: Quilted Blankets - Girls Suits - Plaid Dresses - Small American Flags, to mention a few of the items they made for the Red Cross.

There last sewing was on June 4, 1946.

### **Red Cross First Aid, citizens were taught how to administer First Aid**

On Jan. 19, 1942, There was a First Aid Meeting at Whitpain High School in the evening.

On Jan. 26, 1942, Another, First Aid Meeting at the High School.

On July 27, 1942, The Red Cross gave a demonstration of administering First Aid at Whitpain High School and at the Centre Square Fire House in the evening. (This was a hands on demonstration with people being transported, on Fire Trucks & cars, while on stretchers, with so called injuries, to be administered First Aid at the Fire House & High School.)

### **Preparations were made for, Local Defense**

On Jan. 8, 1942, A Defense Meeting was held at Whitpain High School in the evening.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, 1942, there was a Registration for Defense at the Centre Square Fire Hall, from 2 to 7 P.M. They were taking all names, for use in emergency.

During World War II, a 4 story cinder block building, probably 20 foot square, was built on a hill, near Logan Square, in Norristown. It had an enclosed glass Observation Room on the top. It was manned 24/7 by volunteers, watching for enemy airplanes. Military Aircraft were stationed at Wings Field.

### **Blackouts and Air Raids**

During World War II, when a Blackout or Air Raid occurred, the Fire Whistle blew for a very long time (it was very eerie) and Church Bells rang. You had to cover your windows to block any light escaping at night. Wardens would patrol neighborhoods to make sure no light was visible through the windows. They would knock on the door of offending houses.

Listed below are some of the Blackouts and Air Raids that occurred in Whitpain Township.

On Feb. 3, 1942, There was a blackout tonight, in Whitpain, Plymouth & Philadelphia, etc., but not in Norriton or Norristown. (This was the first blackout.)

On June 23, 1942, A Blackout, all of Eastern Pennsylvania. Seemed very quiet, at 10:30 siren sounded, lasted ½ hour --- but total Blackout from dusk to dawn.

On July 22, 1942, Blackout in evening, about 9:15 P.M.

On Aug. 25, 1942, At 3 A.M., Air Raid whistles sounded & church bells rang.

On Sept. 9, 1942, About 5:15 P.M., an Air Raid signal, lasting 20 minutes.

On Sept. 24, 1942, A Blackout about 10 P.M. until 10:30.

On Oct. 8, 1942, Air Raid this afternoon. School children assembled in basement of school.

On Nov. 17, 1942, Air Raid about 10:30 P.M.

On Nov. 28, 1942, An Air Raid at 10:15 P.M.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, 1942, Air Raid at 12:15 P.M.

On Feb. 16, 1943, At 10:30 A.M., there was an Aid Raid Test, lasting ½ hour. It was known previously.

On March 4, 1943, At 8:50 P.M., a Blackout, until 9:30 P.M.

On June 21, 1943, A Blackout early in morning, about 4:30 A.M.

On June 23, 1943, Another Blackout about 10:30 P.M., lasting over ½ hour.

On July 27, 1943, About midnight, there was a Blackout.

On Sept. 7, 1943, Air Raid Test, about 10:10 A.M.

On Sept. 27, 1943, A Blackout about 9:15 P.M.

On April 13, 1944, A Blackout Test at 10 P.M.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, 1951, There was an Air Raid Test at 3:30 P.M., Fire Siren blew.

On Friday, July 20, 1956, There was Air Raid, at 2 P.M.

### **Military Convoys and Tractor Trailer Oil Tankers, Passed through Centre Square**

During the war, many Military Convoys of various type Military Trucks, passed through Centre Square, on Dekalb Pike, always going toward New York. They would be full of troops. They would be traveling over 30 M.P.H. and took over 20 minutes to pass through Centre Square. They made the sound of a low roar, that could be heard at a great distance.

During the war and into the 1950's, many Tractor Trailer Oil Tankers, traveled on Dekalb Pike, carrying oil to Bethlehem Steel Works, in Bethlehem, PA. There was a Depot and Repair Shop, for those Tanker Trucks, in the building now part of the Shopping Center, directly across Dekalb Pike, from Yost Road. During that time, there were two bad accidents involving those trucks colliding into each other.

On July 11, 1944, there was a collision of 2 Oil Tankers, in front of what is now, a WAWA Gas Station, in Centre Square, with one rear ending and riding up the back of the tanker in front. There was no fire and one man was just slightly hurt.

On December 29, 1948, about 5 A.M., a Tanker Truck rear ended another one in fog, at a small bridge, on Dekalb

Pike, just before, what is now the start of a 4 lane Highway in Upper Gwynedd. Both trucks caught fire and both drivers were killed. The oil ran down into the creek and also caught fire.

### **Internment Camps in the U.S. during W.W. II**

An estimated 120,000 people, many of them U.S. citizens, were housed in 10 camps in several states during the war. The Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona, opened in July 1942 and closed in November 1945. At one point it housed more than 13,000 people, most of them from California.

### **Gas Rationing**

On Sunday, July 27, 1941, Gas Stations closed at 7 P.M.

On July 10, 1942, People went to Whitpain High School to get their Cards for Gas Rationing. Mrs. Rezer received a "A" Card, which initialed her to 4 gallons of gas per week.

On Friday, Dec. 18, 1942, Ban on sale of Gas, from Friday at 11 A.M., until Monday.

On Thursday, Jan. 7, 1943, At noon, a ban was put on pleasure driving.

Shoes, Tires and other essentials were also rationed during the war.

On Sept. 1, 1943, Released Ban on Pleasure Driving at midnight, has been on since Jan. 7, 1943.

On Sept. 2, 1946 - Labor Day - Quite a lot of traveling today.

### **Sugar & Food Rationing**

On June 25, 1942, Sugar Rationing was held at the Fire House. Margie Seiple was in charge.

On July 2, 1942, Sugar Rationing at Fire House. Margie, Mrs. Baker & Mrs. McKelvey were there. Evelyn Geiger & Mrs. Rezer went out. Evelyn received 46 lbs. & Mrs. Rezer, 44 lbs. for canning, etc.

On July 8, 1943, Gene Geiger & Rod Lentz went to Bridgeport to get Ration Books for their babies.

On Oct. 22, 1943, Whitpain School was closed for 3 days, on account of Food Rationing. People would go to the school to get their new Ration Book.

During the war, you could not buy Butter, Oleo Margarine was the substitute. It was white and came in a clear plastic bag. A small capsule, with yellow food coloring, would come with the Margarine. You mixed them together to make Margarine yellow. It took a lot of mixing to get the color even.

On June 14, 1945, Sugar Rationing was held at the Fire House. Mrs. Rezer received 10 lbs. each for her & Anna Righter - total 20 lbs. & Evelyn Geiger 40 lbs. (You would receive Coupons to buy that amount.)

On June 1, 1946, Meat was very scarce.

On June 11, 1947, Last day for Sugar Rationing.

### **Collections for War Effort**

Soon after the start of World War II, the Centre Square Fire Company set up a collection area for residents to bring their Scrap Metal, which was across Skippack Pike from the Fire House, on a open lot of Charlie Murphy's. (now the location of Wells Fargo Bank) This Scrap Metal collection lasted to the Summer of 1950.

On July 8, 1942, Salvation Army came after magazines, old shoes, etc.

On July 10, 1942, Gene Geiger's went to Elverson, took 2 bags of tin cans along, for on the collection dump.

Near the start of World War II, Boehm's Church Congregation voted to donate the Wrought Iron Fence, at the front of their church, to the war effort.

On Jan. 18, 1943, Commenced to slice your own bread today. (To save metal for making parts for bread slicing machines they stopped slicing bread at the bakery.)

On Feb. 23, 1943, No school, rationing for cans, Tues., Wed., Thurs., at school.

On March 12, 1943, 1<sup>st</sup> new Pennies arrived in Norristown, made of steel & Zinc. (Copper was needed for the War effort & these new pennies were made for 1 year.)

On March 11, 1944, New Pennies have been in circulation for about 1 year, were recalled, no longer coined.

After the war, new car production was restarted after the war, there were times when you bought a new car & it came with wood bumpers. Many people waited over a year to have the dealer replace your wood bumper with a metal one. This was still happening on Jan. 16, 1948, When Eugene Geiger received another piece of his rear bumper after over 1 year.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, 1950, Boy Scouts & Cubs, gathered about 8 tons of paper.

On Jan. 22, 1960, The Salvation Army collected newspapers, etc.

On Dec. 14, 1961, The Salvation Army collected newspapers, also rugs, metal, etc.

### **The returning World War II Veterans of Whitpain were Honored at a Banquet**

On Tuesday evening, March 19, 1946, a Banquet was held at the Centre Square Fire House to Honor the returning Men & Women who served in W.W. II. About 200 partook of this Turkey Dinner. It was served by Blackstone Caterer's. (This banquet was organized by Charles Murphy.)

### **St. John's Church participation in, "Lutheran World Action"**

On Sunday, March 17, 1946, St. John's Church started a drive for "Lutheran World Action," for funds, clothing, etc. to help the people recover, in the war torn countries. Starting in 1946 to at least 1957, and possibly longer, St. John's congregation donated \$1,500.00 a year (which was the quota set for St. John's) to Lutheran World Action and Benevolence Fund, to help a devastated world.

On Feb. 17, 1947, Mrs. Rezer & Sara Minnich went to St. John's Sunday School Room to assist packing clothing to be sent to Europe, had 36 cartons.

On Feb. 10, 1948, There was a Fashnacht Social at St. John's in the evening. Pictures of the Lutheran World Action activities overseas, were shown.

On Feb. 16, 1948, There was a Missionary Meeting at St. John's in the evening. Mrs. Miller (Pastor's wife) gave a talk on the United Nations.

On Saturday night, March 26, 1949, There was a 1 hour Program on the Radio, for Lutheran World Action.

On April 26, 1951, Mrs. Rezer & Anna Righter took a lot of clothing, shoes, etc., to St. John's Church for overseas.

## **Local Memorials Honoring the U. S. Veterans of various Wars**

### **Revolutionary War Memorials, in Whitpain Township**

\* On Sunday, April 29, 1923, In the afternoon, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Valley Forge Chapter, had Services in St. John's Church, Centre Square, for the Dedication of a Boulder, with a Bronze Plaque, erected to the Unknown Dead, from the Revolutionary War, interred in the Cemetery. The Boy Scouts were presented with a Flag, from the D.A.R. Rev. Snyder & Rev. Stroddach gave addresses. Mrs. Alvin D. Beyer was the Soloist & Miss Eleanor Fields, Accompanist. The church was filled to utmost capacity.

\* On Tuesday, April 12, 1927, a Marker was placed beneath the Flagpole in front of St. John's Church, at Skippack Pike, Centre Square, by Mr. Eisenbrown, through the kindness of Rev. Snyder. It is inscribed. "In this Cemetery lie the Unknown Revolutionary Soldiers Who were wounded at The Battle of Germantown." 1777 - 1927

\* On September 18, 1940, a Bronze Plaque Honoring the Revolutionary War dead, was Dedicated. It is fasten to the Southwest corner of the front of Boehm's Church, Blue Bell. It was given by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Valley Forge Chapter

\* On July 4, 1967, a Tombstone was Dedicated in Boehm's Church Cemetery, Blue Bell. It marks the common burial site of the Unknown Soldiers of the Revolutionary War in the cemetery. In the fall of 1876, the main walks in the graveyard were graded and covered with sand. It was then that the remains of the Revolutionary War dead were discovered and reburied in this common grave. This Tombstone was given by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Valley Forge Chapter.



## **World War I Memorials**

### **Tablet Honoring George Moyer, of Centre Square**

George Moyer lived at Centre Square, at 1580 Skippack Pike.

On Dec. 3, 1917, George Moyer, from Centre Square, left to join the Aviation Corps.

On Dec. 9, 1917, George Moyer is home from the service, he was rejected on account of color blindness.

On Nov. 3, 1918, George Moyer, who was rejected Aviation Corp. because of being colorblind, had joined another branch of the Service, & was killed in W.W. I. and Memorial Services were held at Bethel Hill Church.

On Sept. 3, 1921, George Moyer's body was returned home.

On Sept. 14, 1921, George Moyer was buried, with Military Honors, at Rose Hill Cemetery, Upper Dublin.

On Nov. 10, 1929, a Tablet was unveiled in Bethel Hill Church, Worcester, by Ida Moyer, in Honor of George Moyer, from Centre Square, who was killed in World War I.

### **Daniel W. Dowling American Legion Post #769, West Ambler**

In the year 1945, a group (approx. 17) of African American Veterans from Ambler, West Ambler and Penllyn, PA area met to petition the American Legion of Pennsylvania for a legion charter. Under the direction of Andre Lewis Jr. (who became the first commander of Post #769 in 1945) a charter was granted.

The American Legion Post was then formed and named for Daniel W. Dowling, who was the first African American to be drafted from Ambler, PA in the First World War. Mr. Dowling died at his home on May 16, 1928.

Daniel W. Dowling American Legion Post #769 is located West Ambler, PA and is a mainstay in the community. The members are committed to mentoring youth, sponsoring community programs, advocating patriotism and promoting continuing devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

There are approximately 100 members and are PROUD to be a diversified Post.

Visit us at [www.amblerlegion769.org](http://www.amblerlegion769.org)

## **World War II Memorials**

### **St. John's Church Service Honor Roll**

On Sunday, July 19, 1942, The Service Honor Roll was Dedicated at St. John's Church, Centre Square. Ken Chalk, David Shuler, William Solliday, William Husk, Robert R. Duffield, Ed Minnich's sister & Corporal Stanley Ghaskins were in church.

### **St. John's Church Service Flag and Honor Roll**

On Sunday, Nov. 8, 1942, Dedication of Service Flag at St. John's Church, Centre Square, with 9 Stars. Anna Chalk & Mrs. Solliday carried it up the aisle, followed by the following members. Mr. & Mrs. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bean, Mr. Solliday, Mrs. Lentz, Mrs. Husk & Dorothy, Sara & Sophie Seipt, Mrs. Duffield, Mrs. Minnich, Mrs. Craig & George Chalk. The Flag was placed for Robert Duffield, Ken Chalk, William Solliday, James Baker, Paul Bean, Elmer Lentz, Oliver Bean, David Shuler & William Husk.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1943, As part of the Candlelight Service, 30 Candles were lit to Honor the 30 men who were Members of St. John's Church. They were lit by Wives, Mother's, Father's, etc., of the different individuals who were in the Service Serving their Country. Quite a large crowd was out & all 3 choirs sang at the service.

On Thursday, Nov. 8, 1945, Three years ago, the Service Flag was Dedicated with 9 Stars, it now has 36 Stars.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, 1949, An Honor Plaque, containing 36 names of those who served in World War II, was Dedicated, at St. John's Church. It was given by the Women's Club, cost \$156.94. It is fastened to the wall at the top of the stairs in the Great Room. (The whereabouts of the Service Flag & Honor Roll is unknown.)

### **St. John's Church Flag and Flag Pole**

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13, 1942, Dedication Service of Flag & Flag Pole, in the front yard of St. John's



Church. It is 50 ft. high, and a gift of Mrs. Ludwig & daughter Clair, in Memory of S.C. Ludwig, who died 8/30/1935. Junior & Senior Choirs sang & Mr. Dietrich, Supt. Of Schools, Norristown, gave Address, regarding Flag.

### **Original, Whitpain Township Honor Roll for World War II Veterans**

On Nov. 5, 1943, the Committee for the Honor Roll of World War II Veterans of Whitpain Township, met in the evening, at Gene Geiger's. Ross Rile, a township Supervisor and Howard Baker, a Vestry Member of St. John's Lutheran Church, were present.

On Nov. 11, 1943, Rev. Cook, minister of Boehm's Church, and Mr. Gamp, the township tax collector, called at Gene Geiger's, regards addresses of residents in Whitpain Township. Anna Righter and Bertha Rezer assisted addressing envelopes to different families, for contributions to fund the proposed Honor Roll.

On Jan. 18, 1944, Gene Geiger went to a meeting of the Honor Roll Committee, at the Zimmerman's Silver Lake Farm, on Wentz Road. (Merrill Zimmerman was president of the Alumni Committee of Whitpain High School & a future member of the Whitpain School Board and Ed Zimmerman was a former President the Centre Square Fire Company & future member of the Wissahicken School Board.)

On Feb. 15, 1944, Gene Geiger went to meeting of Honor Roll Committee, at the High School, in the evening.

This Honor Roll was made of wood and was approx. 8 foot wide, 5 foot high, with the names of all the men and women, from Whitpain Township, who served in World War II. It stood on the front lawn of Whitpain Township's 1895 School Building, in Blue Bell. It was probably erected some time in 1945 and torn down sometime in the 1950's.

### **World War II Veterans Memorial for Whitpain Township**

The idea to create a new memorial started with Whitpain resident Lorraine Bollinger, whose brother-in-law was one of the servicemen killed. She spoke to Bob Whittock in October 2002 and asked to work on the idea. Conversations with Supervisors Nick Teti and Tony Greco followed. Shortly after this conversation, Bob found a list of the names of the veterans, that were on the original wooden Honor Roll, that included eleven men killed in the war. (This list had been printed by Eugene and Sarah Wentz, in May 1946, and apparently been given out at their Atlantic Service Station, in Center Square.) Nick and Tony then asked Ed Lane to design a Memorial that would include an Honor Roll and Plaques Honoring the eleven men.

The project was approved by the Township supervisors in late summer, 2003, a committee was formed, and serious work of creating the Memorial began. James H. Seader, Jr., Director of Montgomery County Department of Veterans Affairs was very helpful in researching the service records of the eleven men killed.

Brochures were designed and sent to every household in the township. The response was over welling, and over 200 bricks were sold that were placed in the walkway. There are 259 veterans names on the Honor Roll, of which 3 were women and 11 Plaques Honoring the 11 men killed in the war. The 259 veterans represented over 10% of the Township population at the time.

*These individuals lived in Whitpain Township and gave their lives, defending our country during World War II.*

Private Salvatore J. Alio - (4/11/1925 - 4/20/1945) - U.S. Army - Buried at: Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, Netherlands

Private Andrew Logan Bollinger (5/24/1925 - 5/24/1944) - U.S. Army - Memorialized at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy

Pfc. George L. Cottrell, Jr. (8/19/1923 - 7/21/1944) - U.S. Army - His remains were returned to the U.S, 3/22/1948, for reburial

Pfc. George Leon Eisenbise, Jr. (5/4/1923 - 1/9/1945) - U.S. Army - His remains were returned to the U.S. and he was reburied in Vincent Cemetery, Spring City, October 1948

Pfc. Pietro F. Gentile (12/23/1923 - 4/9/1945) - U.S. Army - Buried at: Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold (Moselle) France

Sergeant Gino F. Orazi (4/29/1925 - 12/12/1944) - U.S. Army - His remains were returned to the U.S. 10/26/1947 for reburial

Private Leonard Petro (10/16/1916 - 10/10/1944) - U.S. Army - Buried at: Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium

Sergeant Charles Rowland (6/6/1921 - 1/25/1945) - U.S. Army - Buried at: Epinal American Cemetery, Epinal (Vosges) France

Pfc. Frank J. Serratore (9/21/1921 - 12/7/1944) - U.S. Army - His remains were returned to the U.S. 8/14/1948 and reburied at: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheltenham, PA

Lieut. J.G. Albert M. Slingluff, U.S.N.R. 8/20/1919 - 11/28/1943) - U.S. Navy - Buried at: Boehm's Church Cemetery, Blue Bell PA

Private Robert L. Small (2/6/1913 - 9/9/1943) - U.S. Army - Buried at: Manila American Cemetery, Fort Bonifacio, Manila, Philippines

This Memorial stands in front of the Whitpain Township Building on Wentz Road and was Dedicated on May 30, 2005, with over 400 people attending the Dedication.

## **9/11 Memorial at Whitpain Township**

Within hours after the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City collapsed, after two Passenger Jet Airplanes were deliberately flown into them, a contingent on men from Whitpain Police Department and the Second Alarmer's Association & Rescue Squad of Montgomery County, had left to help the rescue effort in New York City.

At that time the Second Alarmer's were not affiliated with Whitpain Township. A few years later, they became the soul provider of the Emergency Medical and Rescue Services for Whitpain Township.

After the World Trade Center had been cleared of the wreckage, the Second Alarmer's requested a artifact, that had been part of the Twin Towers. The request was granted and they received an I-Beam, 10" x 21 1/4" x 10' 4 1/2". A 9/11 Memorial was constructed on a grass island in the driveway, in front of the future Headquarters for the Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad, which was built and Dedicated May 17, 2014. The Memorial was Dedicated on Sunday afternoon, September 11, 2011, with several hundred people in attendance..

The Plaque that is part of the 9/11 Memorial reads:

This artifact was recovered and donated to  
The Second Alarmers Association & Rescue Squad  
of Montgomery County, Inc.

### **From the World Trade Center**

**after September 11, 2001**

Courtesy of the Port Authority of NY & NJ  
& Displayed in the Memory of the

**2752 Victims**

including:

**343 NYC Firefighters**

**41 Emergency Medical Service Providers**

**37 Port Authority Police Officers**

**23 New York Police Officers**

Dedicated September 11, 2011

## List of U.S. Veterans interred in Whitpain Township

### “St. John’s Lutheran Church Cemetery,” Centre Square. PA

Revolutionary War - There is a Bronze Plaque attached to a boulder, Honoring the unknown Revolutionary Soldiers who were wounded at the Battle of Germantown, in 1777, who died here, and are buried in a common grave in the cemetery. It was erected by the Valley Forge Chapter of the DAR, in 1923.

Revolutionary War - George Bernheimer - George Bisbing - George Boyer - Janson T. Butler  
- Daniel Deal - John Fry II - John Hallman - Jacob Hoffman  
- John Markley - Philip Markley - Christian Moser - Nicholas Slough  
- Benjamin Weber - John Zieber

Peace Time - Jacob Slough

War of 1812 - George Bisbing - Adam Deem - Adam Fleck - John Fry III  
- John Miller - Jacob Weber - Jacob Zearfoss

Civil War - Henry Fullmer - John Harpeth - David Knipe - Thomas C. Lownes  
- Andrew T. Roberts - William Vogel - Jacob R. Weber - Joseph H. Zearfoss  
- Jacob Zoll

Spanish-American War - Theophilus R. Fry

World War I - Charles W. Boehner - Roland E. Cross - Lyman Rohr - Charles P. Roynan  
- Walter H. Roynan - E. Elmer Sechel, Jr. - Frederick C. Siegle

World War II - Robert I. Adams - Paul J. Bean - William E. Boyer - John Arthur Engstrom  
- Joseph O. Flanagan - Stanley K. Gaskyn - Joseph M. Gladeck, Sr. - Linwood F. Gresh  
- Walter E. Kessel - Robert Gerhard Klein - Elmer Lentz - Alan H. Lightkep  
- Joseph W. Littel - Ronald R. Story - Raymond Vandegrift, Sr. - John C. Williams

Korean War - Andre I. Keck - Clarence V. Steffen

World War II - Korean - Vietnam War - Gerald H. Swarm

### “Union Meeting Methodist Cemetery,” Union Meeting Road, Blue Bell, PA

War of 1812 - David Roberts

Civil War - John M. Holmes

World War I - David C. Clem - Joshua B. Collins - Norman J. Trankle

## “Boehm’s United Church of Christ Cemetery,” Blue Bell, PA

Revolutionary War - “Revolutionary War Monument” It was placed in the cemetery, by the Valley Forge Chapter of the D.A.R. and dedicated July 4, 1967.

Revolutionary War - Johannes Eberhardt - Barnabas (Barnet) Gearhart - Jacob Gearhart  
- J. Nicholas Gearhart, died 10/25/1820, age 105 years, 5 months, 29 days.  
- Nicholas Rile - George Sheive - Daniel Yost - Jacob Yost

War of 1812 - Frederick Nuss

Civil War - Henry C. Biddle - Isaac J. Brown - P.W. Clair - Charles Fitzgerald  
- Charles Ford - Algernon J. Hoover - Jesse Jarrett - Charles Land  
- J. LeBold - Justus W. Lutz - Jesse McCombs - John Montgomery  
- Charles E. Pugh - J.W. Rapp - Benjamin B. Schrack - Gilbert L. Sellers  
- Henry Smith - Jacob S. Steiner - John C. Still - Morton Streeper  
- William H. Von Derau - Alfred Walton - Ethan J. Weidner - James Wilkinson

Spanish-American War - John H. Beideman - Frank P. Curry

World War I - Hugh Baxter - Earl C. Bernhard - Harvey M. Bossard  
- John S. Brown - Christian G. Heilman - A. Harris Insinger, Sr.  
- Harry Z. Maxwell - Charles C. Schmidt - Daniel N. Tippin

World War II - Gilbert W. Blaisdell - Lawrence William Branigan - Louise “Roberts” Branigan  
- William Edward Brittain - G. Leslie Carter - George L. Carter, Jr.  
- Joseph P. Cassidy - Clarence D. Coryell - John Heim - H. Leroy Jones  
- Joseph C. Jones - Robert L. Krier - Margaret “Maxwell” Lapetina  
- Harry Dewees Lentz, Sr. - Norman R. Lord - Norman W. Lukens  
- Norman D. MacMullan - John F. Meehan, Jr. - Thomas Meehan, Jr.  
- Thomas Meehan, Sr. - Harry E. Ott - Charles W. Paul - Judith K. Paul  
- John T. Reiners - Thomas E. Roberts - Gilbert W. Royles  
- Charles W. Shuler - Albert M. Slingluff - Fredrick C. Siegle, Jr.  
- George C. Taylor, Jr.

Korean War - Frank W. Kiefaber

Korean/Vietnam War - Herman J. Prischmann

Vietnam War - Edgar S. Gottshall, Jr. - Lenz B. Gundlach

Peace Time - William Clifford Hollocker - Mark C. Lewis

“Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery,” Morris Road & Lewis Lane, Broad Axe, PA

War of 1812 - Samuel Weidner

Civil War - George Garner - Joshua McColl - Thomas Rapp  
- Morris L. Robbins - William Shoemaker - William Showack  
- Peter C. Sleath - Thomas Stillfield - Josiah Weidner

World War II - Pete Creciln - Carl J. Walker, Jr.

St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, 58 Veterans  
Union Meeting Methodist Cemetery, 5 Veterans  
Boehm's U C C Cemetery, 80 Veterans  
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Cemetery, 12 Veterans

155 Veterans interred in Whitpain Township, as of 9/19/2016