

around town

By Carol Kalos, St. Andrews Resident Writer and
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According to Whitpain Township's *A Tricentennial Reflection* (2002), "The Creamery successfully made and sold milk, buttermilk, sour milk, whey, butter, cup cheese [a Pennsylvania Dutch soft, sour cheese], cottage cheese, regular aged cheese, and other dairy products until early in the twentieth century."

Today, with an addition, the building accommodates professional offices, and the lovely property is still called *The Creamery*. Silver Run Creek still runs through the grounds, and large, old trees continue to shade the lawn behind the historic site.

Carol Kalos is a resident of Saint Andrews and President of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, which sponsors monthly speakers on history topics—free and open to the public. See the website for details: WValleyHS.org

The Creamery

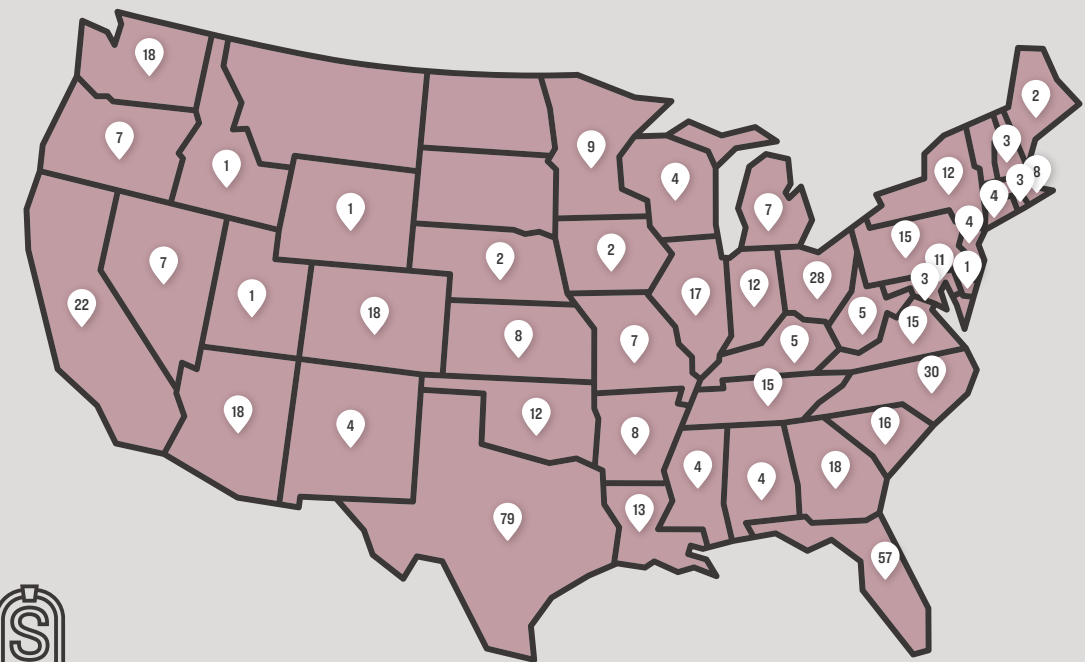
In the 1880s and Today

In Whitpain Township, the local Creamery Association began in 1881 at The Creamery, now an office building on Dekalb Pike.

At a creamery, the cream is separated from whole milk. Then the milk is pasteurized, and the cream is used to churn butter and produce cheese. Wealthy residents in the area bought shares as stockholders in the local creamery business, and it hired only skilled workers. Their judgment was needed to create fine dairy products with no computers to assist them.

The Creamery building once housed one of Whitpain Township's most successful businesses. Its location next to Silver Run Creek was chosen for several reasons: Before the days of refrigeration, the creek's cool water was used to keep the dairy products chilled. To supply the milk, there were large, healthy dairy herds nearby, and Norristown created a large market for The Creamery's products.

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