



Local “Tall Oaks” Families Supported George Washington’s Militia, 1777

BY CAROL KALOS, WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT



The October issue of the Stroll described the historic “Tall Oaks,” the house at 731 West Skippack Pike, presently a real estate office. It was first owned by the large DeHaven family, who purchased land from William Penn in Chester County and what is now Montgomery County. The first residents at what would become the vast “Tall Oaks” farm were Peter DeHaven and his wife Sidonia Levering (although women did not own land), and they started a prosperous family. Five generations of the DeHavens lived on the property.

In October of 1777, when Washington’s army of 10,000 troops camped in this neighborhood (including today’s Blue Bell Country Club), records show that five DeHaven men were Patriot volunteers, according to *Whitpain...Crossroads in Time* (1977). An oak sapling was first mentioned in a 1742 deed to the land, and several colossal, old oaks line the lovely dwelling’s parking area today.

The December Stroll will reveal more about the DeHavens and their home, “Tall Oaks.”

Carol Kalos, the author, is president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, located at the 1895 Public School on Skippack Pike. There the society has a library, archives, and three floors of exhibits about our area’s local history. All are welcome! To visit, please email to info@WValleyHS.org

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