

2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER



Brintnel Robins gravesite at Harrold Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Hempfield Twp.

A Time To Honor

Hanna's Town Resolves

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. As the society enters its 31st year of serving the Norwin Community, we are proud to be the conservators for the generations to follow. The year 2025 marks many anniversaries important to both our community and also the nation. As we look forward to our nation's 250th birthday in 2026, we must not forget events that helped define 1776.

One such event occurred 250 years ago in 1775 in Westmoreland County. On April 19, 1775 citizens across the colonies heard about the shots fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. In reaction to the beginning of the Revolutionary war, citizens of Westmoreland County gathered and drafted the Hanna's Town Resolves, approved May 16, 1775. The Resolves protested the injustices of the British Parliament, while remaining loyal to George III, the English Monarch. They did, however, resolve to take up arms to resist tyrannical acts. Within the context of the resolves was the admonition that the colonist would resist tyranny and oppression with their lives and fortunes.

The Hanna's Town Resolves set the stage for the Westmoreland County Militia, also known as Proctor's Militia and the Independent Battalion of Westmoreland County Pennsylvania.



Honoring Our Nation's Veterans

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2025 will find the Norwin Historical Society honoring our nation's veterans. Military honors at these memorials are conducted by the Manor American Legion Honor Guard, Michael Dietz, Commander.

On Sunday, May 25, a ceremony honoring Carl Leroy McKelvey (a WWI Veteran) will commence at 11:30 AM at the historic Brush Creek cemetery along Brush Creek Road Manor PA. A 1:00 PM ceremony will commence at the Penn-Lincoln Memorial Park 14679 Lincoln Hwy. N. Huntingdon PA. At 2:00 PM at our historic Brush Creek Reformed Presbyterian Church cemetery on Leger Road military honors will be conducted. Final military honors on May 25th at 3:00 PM will occur at the Manor Veterans War Memorial located near the American Legion Post 472 Manor, PA

Respect Through Restoration

The care of our historic Brush Creek Associate Reformed Church Cemetery has been a work in progress since 1994. Over the years members of our society have volunteered hundreds of hours rehabilitating the Circa 1786 cemetery. The initial project was headed by Tom Witman and his committee in 1995. Since then the volunteers have maintained and improved the cemetery grounds. In early May 2022, a devastating storm damaged trees and gravestones at the cemetery. This event brought Army veteran Bill Bray onto the scene and with his direction along with members of the Historical Society, a renewed effort began that included not only maintaining the cemetery, but a project to replace veteran headstones from all wars found at the site. This work continues to the present.

Bill aims to assemble a team of volunteers to walk through each Westmoreland County cemetery and identify the graves belonging to veterans. Volunteers will photograph each grave and enter pertinent identification information into a spreadsheet. The goal is to complete the database by Memorial Day 2026. Those interested in helping with the county veteran grave database can call 724-552-6965 or email cribbscamp276@gmail.com to reach organizer Bill Bray.

Did You Know?

In the spirit of Memorial Day, the following four veterans have these stories of note:

Brintnel Robbins came to the Norwin area in 1791. As Revolutionary War veterans, both Britnel and his brother were paid in land grants. Brintnel and his wife, Mary, settled in the Robbins and Robbins Station area. Hence the historic name of this area of North Huntingdon Twp. (Now known as Turner Valley)

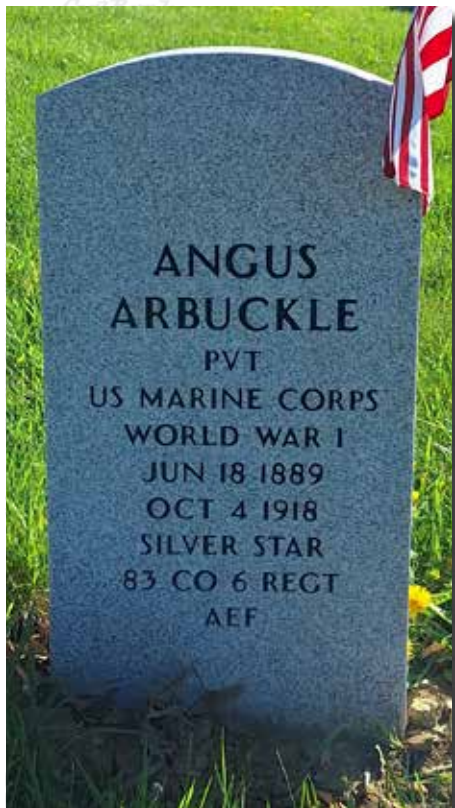
Private Angus Arbuckle from Westmoreland City, PA died as a result of battle wounds on October 4, 1918. A Marine of the 2nd Marine Division, 6th Regiment, 83 Company was killed in action near St. Etienne, France. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. On May 26, 2025 a military honor guard, along with the Norwin Historical Society and the Manor Legion will pay tribute at his gravesite. Bill Bray has replaced Private Arbuckle's gravestone with the requisite Silver Star Award emblazoned on his Veteran Marker.

John E. Wiegel 1846-1946 is the last Civil War Veteran to be buried in Westmoreland County. His grave is located at the Union Cemetery, located in N. Huntingdon Twp. Army veteran Bill Bray, a descendant of Revolutionary and Civil War veterans is heading a military honor guard ceremony on Monday, May 26, 2025 to honor Civil War veteran John E. Weigel.

In 1943 officer Julia McNeil from Jeannette enlisted in the Women's Army Corps. It was the only unit that included women of color, stationed in Europe. During World War II her unit, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was essential in sending and receiving communication for the troops deployed in the European theatre. The Women's Army Corps veteran died in 2008 and is buried beside her husband at Jeannette Memorial cemetery. The story of the 6888th or commonly the Six Triple Eight is the subject of a Netflix movie entitled "The Six Triple Eight". (2024)

Did You Know?

According to Norwin Magazine, North Huntingdon Township was named the safest small town in PA and the 14th safest nationwide in an analysis by MoneyGeek. With a crime cost per capita of \$86, North Huntingdon Township ranked #14 nationwide and was the only small town/city from PA to make the top 15!



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JOHN FRANKLIN WOLF

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