

A History of Torresdale and the Morelton Inn

Presented by Northeast Philadelphia History Network, sponsored by Friends of Northeast Philadelphia History

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 7:00 PM at Pennepack Baptist Church, 8732 Krewstown Road, Philadelphia PA 19115

Link: This will be a hybrid in-person/virtual program via Zoom. For Zoom attendees, a link will be sent out a day or two prior to the meeting. Check the NEPHN Facebook page for the link or email us at nephillyhistory@gmail.com to receive the link by email.

Local historian Patty O'Connor McCarthy examines the establishment of Torresdale in 1850 by wealthy financier Charles Macalester, and the history of the Morelton Inn, an elite Torresdale resort that catered to the privileged class at the turn of the twentieth century. Macalester built his mansion, Glengarry (now known as Glen Foerd), in the far northeastern corner of Philadelphia County and at his invitation, wealthy families purchased land in the surrounding area in the 1850s and 1860s for their country seats. By the 1890s, many of the early owners had passed away while others were willing to sell their land for a profit.

Prominent businessman and politician, Edward de Veaux Morell, who in 1889 married Louise Bouvier Drexel, purchased a large portion of Torresdale to create a resort, The Morelton Inn. An expansive property that included the Inn, landscaped gardens, a casino, and guest houses, Morelton became a popular destination for Philadelphia's elite. The Inn closed in 1898 and became a private club, and most of the outbuildings were torn down, repurposed, or sold. The main building went through various owners over the years and is presently a private home called Morelton Manor.

As always, NEPHN meetings are free and open to all; no registration is required. We ask attendees that can to bring a dessert of some sort—cookies, cake, pie, brownies, fruit dish—preferably something home-made, not store bought.