



THE ARCHWAY

Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs
Vol. 31. No.1. Mary Lou Lawlor & Angela Evans, Editors. Winter 2023-24

Peter Ebner, the Veteran Bottler

by David Doody

Editors note - Peter Ebner supplied the sodas for Brandywine Springs for many years. In a few of our Restaurant photos, signs are on the front of the building stating “drink Ebners Sodas”, and “Ebners Bottled Goods”. Our Archaeology teams have found at least 6 types of broken “Ebner” bottles around the park over the years. David Doody (FOBS Board of Directors) provides much more information on Mr. Ebner.

Peter Ebner was born in Prussia, date unknown. He traveled extensively, criss-crossing the Atlantic Ocean and was shipwrecked at least 3 times - one of which, he was the only survivor. He was a veteran of the Civil War.

He was established in Wilmington in the 1880s where he ran a saloon for about 10 years. He built a large bottling house at the corner of Fourth and Union Streets. The plant employed 12 to 15 people and had 4 delivery wagons for distribution in Wilmington. Flavors included sarsaparilla, ginger root beer, tonic, raspberry and others. The bottling house had a capacity of about 24,000 bottles per week! Although he never brewed beer, he bottled for other breweries who did not have their own bottles, most notably the Diamond State Brewery.

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Peter Ebner Photo from the David Doody collection



Red Clay Valley Clean Up is Saturday March 23, 2024. We need volunteers for our group. Please contact Angela Evans to sign up angy.e8811@comcast.net

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There are a multitude of Ebner bottles (around 20 types) from early mineral water and cider "squats", tall blob top beers, Hutchinson (Hutch) [a type of bottle stopper] sodas, and crown top bottles with metal tops. Many of them had the famous "Use Ebners Bottled Goods" embossed on them. These are the only bottles from any company in Wilmington to have their own advertising on them.

Peter Ebner died in 1905 and the company was taken over by his two sons, Charles and Arthur Ebner. After 1916, they ran the business under the name "Chasart Bottling", a combination of their two names. Prohibition dealt a serious blow to the company in 1919 (along with many other companies). The production of soda continued until 1929 when it closed for good. They were the largest bottling house in the city, except for William Foord.



David Doody's display of Ebner bottles at our December meeting. Photo by Mark Lawlor

Are you a Facebook Fan?

We are looking for a new Administrator for our Facebook page. If you spend time on Facebook please consider helping FOBS with our social media connection. Contact Mary Lou Lawlor 302-994-8929 or mllawlor@verizon.net

Welcome New Members!!

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Charles Hoyt | Ken Kessel |
| Cathy Morris | Dan O'Brien |
| Steve Stern | Jeff Swift |
| Robert Young | |

Officers & Board of Directors 2024

Officers

- President : Ed Lipka**
Vice President : Mark Lawlor
Secretary : Mary Lou Lawlor
Treasurer : Angela Evans

Board of Directors

- Klaus Abele**
Richard Gillis
David Doody
Jeff Swift
Jonathan Hunt



Fresh fallen snow in January covers the park at the site of the miniature railroad crossing.

Photo by Mark Lawlor

Presidents message...

Dear Friends of Brandywine Springs,

As we move into 2024 we look forward to the start up construction of the Walking Trail Improvement Plan Project.

On Thursday, November 30, 2023, New Castle County Parks Department hosted a Public Forum Meeting to update the project information on the Trail Improvement Project in Brandywine Springs Park. This meeting was a follow-up and update from the first Public Meeting that was held on December 6, 2022.

The meeting was hosted by New Castle County Parks Department manager, Kendall Sommers and Parks Project Leader, Mike Clendaniel. As a follow-up to last year's meeting, the feedback and public comment was gathered and used to present the 'path-forward' plan to improve the walking trails in Brandywine Springs Park.

To give a little background, Senator Spiros Mantzavinos, was able to secure funding from the State Bond Bill Committee in the total amount of \$450,000. The County is in the process to have FOBS transfer the funds to the Project Account for the expenditures that will be used for the project, which will probably be done in a couple of phases.

The presentation at the recent meeting highlighted the priorities that the Parks Dept. will be using to move forward. The estimate to upgrade the trails around the park is \$400,000 and to construct and install the bridge over the dam is \$50,000. The County Parks Department is planning to begin moving on the Trail Improvement Projects in the Spring of 2024.

FOBS Leadership will be meeting with Kendall, Mike & Tracey to fine tune the priority list of items the we would like to see completed first: the complete trail around lake Washington and the fabrication and installation of the bridge across from the effluent dam. Other items on FOBS's wish list include the improvements on the maintenance road and a trail that will connect the top of the parking lot to the amusement park area.

More details will be communicated in the future newsletters as the project progresses, so please stay tuned. The Link for the Park Project website is: <https://www.newcastlede.gov/2553/Brandywine-Springs-Park>

Ed Lipka, President
Friends of Brandywine Springs

In Memoriam

Doris Hanby
January 8, 2024

Llewellyn H. McCarter
January 6, 2024

Our condolences to their families

FRIENDS OF BRANDYWINE SPRINGS 2024 MEETING DATES

March 10	August 11
April 7	September 8
May 5	October 13
June 9	November 10
July 14	December 1

**Meetings are held at
The Cedars Methodist Church
Maple & Harrison Avenues
7:00 pm.**

This & That... Welcome 2024! We are looking forward to a great new year and Spring is almost here!!...Welcome new board members! Thank you to those members who served previously... We are hoping to have another "Day in the Park" event this year, please consider volunteering for this event; it's our chance to showcase the park and it's history...we also hope to have another History tour excursion with Wilmington & Western Railroad this year....Volunteers are essential for making these events happen! Please consider donating your time. It can be a very rewarding experience and opportunity to meet new people while giving back to the community. A special thank you to Sarah Dougherty for starting and maintaining our Facebook page for 10 years!!..Thank you to David Doody for sharing his Ebner bottle collection and writing the article for this newsletter.... Questions, Comments, or Suggestions contact Mary Lou Lawlor 302-994-8929 or email mllawlor@verizon.net

Membership renewal form enclosed

Friends of Brandywine Springs
P.O. Box 5323, Wilmington, De. 19808
President: **Ed Lipka**
Vice President: **Mark Lawlor**
Secretary: **Mary Lou Lawlor**
Treasurer: **Angela Evans**

Board of Directors
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P.O. BOX 5323
WILMINGTON, DE. 19808-0323

