

CHESTER TIMES – December 30, 1912

COUNTY'S BIG REALTY YEAR – Eight Hundred Dwellings Have Been Built During Year of 1912 - \$2,000,000 Was Expended

With the passing of 1913, builders and realty brokers of Eastern Delaware County boroughs declare that the year has been one of the most prosperous in the history of the county. Within the last twelve months nearly 800 dwellings and other buildings have been erected or are in course of erection at a cost of more than two million dollars, which establishes a new high record for building activity.

During the year there were any realty transfers, several of which were for valuable farm lands to be utilized for suburban homes on a palatial scale. One of the biggest developments for the year was in Springfield Township, where farm lands increased in value, in some instances, one hundred per cent, when it became known that an extension of the Philadelphia and Garrettford trolley line was to be made through that section running from Sixty-ninth Street station to Media. More than five hundred acres in this township changed hands in one week.

Of the many boroughs that shared in the building boom and which experienced greatly increased realty values as a result, Marcus Hook probably stands out pre-eminent. During the year, many new industrial establishments have located there, until now it is rapidly becoming one of the most important industrial centers of the state. New plants at a cost of more than half a million dollars have been erected or are near completion. In this borough the American Viscose Company has begun the erection of 149 model houses for its workmen, to whom the houses will be rented.

Next to Marcus Hook, Leiperville and Eddystone made the highest gains, many new houses going up to accommodate the workmen employed at the Baldwin Locomotive Works, which has erected one of several costly plants there and made many other improvements during the year. Despite the great number of houses erected in Leiperville during the year, the demand is several times greater than the supply.

OTHER BOROUGHS BUSY – There has been considerable activity in Collingdale, Darby, Colwyn, Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, Sharon Hill, Norwood, Ridley Park, Clifton Heights, and other boroughs.

Chester, the metropolis of Delaware County, has erected many improvements. At Media alterations and renovations and additions to the court house are being carried on at a cost of \$182,000, and a new post office is being erected at a cost of \$75,000, of which \$10,000 went to purchase the site. Firehouses have been erected or are in course of erection in East Lansdowne, Darby, Highland Park and Collingdale, white schools are being erected or have been built at a cost of \$125,000 at Llanerch, Fairview, Ridley Township, Crum Lynne, East Lansdowne and Norwood. A \$10,000 Sunday school edifice was built in East Lansdowne for the New Trinity Methodist Episcopal church; a handsome \$40,000 church is being erected by the Presbyterians at Sharon Hill; a \$10,000 edifice is now ready for occupancy by the Episcopalians of Darby, while a small Lutheran church has been built at Leiperville.

Realty was active during the week, considering that it was holiday time. One of the biggest transfers was the sale of twenty-seven acres of land in Haverford Township for \$27,833.68 by Sarah F. Ashurst et al, executors to Morris Williams of Philadelphia. The old Moss farm at Glen Riddle, has been purchased by Mrs. Samuel D. Riddle and Miss

Sara Dohson Fisk. The farm which contains forty acres and which was boroughs from Atwood B. Hoskins, adjoins the land owned by the two new purchasers.

A new suburb is being projected on the outskirts of Glenolden, which will be called South Wyndom. The tract, which consists of eighteen acres, faces on Parker Avenue, extending from Brighton to Amosland roads. The land is owned by Julius Nelson.

The tract of twenty acres of land fronting on Parker Avenue, Collingdale, owned by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, which was on the market, has been recalled. The land will be held by the traction company, it is said, as a probable terminal point for its L road out Woodland Avenue from Thirty-Second Street to Darby.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION