

History of Camp Cedar Knoll

Camp Cedar Knoll has been divided up in several ways over the years, but it remains about 45 acres of land that was once part of a plantation of 316 acres that was owned by Captain William Price of the Revolutionary War. Prior to March 1, 1783 – sometime before May 20, 1788, Aaron Learning owned the Price Plantation of 316 acres plus other land. He purchased the whole of his land in two parcels; one part from Lawrence and William Peterson, and the other part from the Council of Proprietors. This property contained the whole of Camp Cedar Knoll, as well as other land, and stretched from the northeast side of the Maurice River, including both the northwest side and the southeast side of Menantico Creek in both Millville and Maurice River Townships and east of Camp Cedar Knoll. On the west of the Menantico Creek, Camp Cedar Knoll was bordered on the north of Rawson's line, on the west by a swamp, and on the south by Scot's line, it then crossed the creek, all the way east of Camp Cedar Knoll, and contained land which was afterwards owned by Rebecca J. Wynn.

It says in the deed to Camp Cedar Knoll that the eastern border of the property is land once owned by Rebecca J. Wynn, Daughter of Captain William Price and wife of Rev. Isaac Wynn. Rev. Isaac Wynn, as well as Captain William's son Joseph, was an original trustee of the West Creek Baptist Association, which was formed in 1792. They built their Church and cemetery below Port Elizabeth on Old Stagecoach Road. They were originally members of the Tuckahoe Baptist Church. Under the leadership of Rev. Griggs, Camp Cedar Knoll was purchased at a cost of \$12,500 on May 22, 1946. This property consisted of 45 acres. The Bethany Hall was built in 1950 at the cost of \$11,000. The Dining Hall and Kitchen was built in 1952 at a cost of more than \$6,000. The Woodbury Property was purchased for \$8,500 and converted to three apartments in 1953. Six cottages with eight rooms each were purchased in 1957.

The Cabins were purchased from the U.S. Government. Rev. Frink interceded in the purchasing and removal to the Camp Ground. There was a period of time when Camp Cedar Knoll was in jeopardy. The State Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Commission was conducting a search for appropriate sites for two incinerators to burn toxic waste and one "land emplacement" or "entombment" facility. Rev. J.B. Dicks, Moderator during this crucial time period encouraged Bethany to pray. Bethany held Prayer on October 25, 1986 at Camp Cedar Knoll. Bethany responded to the call and so did God. Moderator Dicks being directed by God, contacted Senator Frank Lautenburg, and asked him to come down to Camp Cedar Knoll. Upon his visit, Senator Lautenburg learned of Indian habitations in the Manumuskin area said to date back 10,000 years; he also spotted a pair of Bald Eagles perched on the top branch of a tree and Camp Cedar Knoll became a State Protected area. God saved Camp Cedar Knoll.

Camp Cedar Knoll has continued to grow. Ground breaking ceremony for the Dormitory was held on September 19, 1997. Rev. Dicks was the Moderator and Mrs. Emma Hairston was President of the Women's Auxiliary. Rededication of Rev. Frink Hall was held Saturday May 31, 2003. Rev. Guy Campbell Jr. was the Moderator and God blessed us with the resources to get the work done.

Presently, our dear Camp Cedar Knoll still stands as a testament to the faith and forbearance of our ancestors who worked so hard to make sure Camp Cedar Knoll would still exist as a place for Bethany to gather and fellowship. We know much work has been done and still needs to be done but with Gods help we will keep marching on. May God bless us who work to keep the Camp presently and may God bless the future generations yet to experience the beauty of Camp Cedar Knoll.