

Summit Historical Minute
Presented By Thomas Tarantino
At the 11/4/15 Common Council Meeting

History of Martin's Brook

Hello, my name is Thomas Tarantino and I am an Eagle Scout in Troop 67, and today, I will be talking about the history of Martin's Brook.

I want to first thank Mayor Dickson, Council President Dr. Rubino and Common Council members for inviting me to give the Historical Minute about Martin's Brook. I especially want to thank Councilwoman Sandra Lizza for her guidance in this presentation.

I completed my Eagle Scout project at Martin's Brook Park on Butler Parkway. Alongside the half-mile-long brook, I created an Information Trail which is comprised of trail restoration, handmade wooden signs and plaques describing different aspects of the Park. The signs give descriptions of the watershed area, the wildlife found in the Park, and the history of the naming of Martin's Brook.

While researching information for my sign on the history of Martin's Brook, I talked to several people in City Hall and some neighbors about the origin of the name "Martin" in Martin's Brook, but no one knew the answer. With the help of Cindy Martin, a member of the Summit Historical Society and a former Summit Councilwoman, I was able to look at historical maps and newspaper articles dating back to the late 1800's to find information on past citizens by the name of Martin to find a probable character to fit the description. After hours of searching, I found an article in The Summit Record, dated December 29, 1894, where we discovered a man named Archer Nevins Martin who was actively involved in the social, religious and political life of Summit when he lived in the township after the Civil War.

Archer Martin had an array of heroic and prestigious accomplishments during the late 19th century that would qualify him to be worthy of having Martin's Brook named in his honor. At the age of seventeen, Martin joined the 161st Pennsylvania Regiment as a second lieutenant and fought bravely in the Civil War. In the Shenandoah battle, he was captured by the Confederates but escaped, wounded and weak, to return to the Union lines. He served with distinction and was awarded the rank of Colonel. Eight years after the war, Colonel Martin became a citizen of Summit in 1873.

He was one of Summit's most admirable citizens, making a significant

impact to the town as a real estate developer, a prominent businessman, and political figure. Martin was a leading member of Calvary Episcopal Church, served on the Township Committee and was nominated for the Third Congressional District and State Senator. He also contributed to the formation of the Summit Casino Club and received a patent for his innovation to the radiator. What led us to believe Martin's Brook was named after him was his ownership of 24 acres of land in Summit which encompassed the area that is now known as Martin's Brook and he made significant real estate developments on the North Side of Summit. For these reasons, we believe that Archer Nevins Martin is the man for which Martin's Brook is named.

I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to visit Martin's Brook Park soon!

Sources:

- Summit Record, December 29, 1894
- The historian, February, 2001
- Maps at Summit Historical Society