



On behalf of the Historical Society of Riverton: WELCOME to this Re-dedication.

“May Peace Prevail on Earth” allows us, “We the People...” to focus on our desire to be servant leaders, to create peace while going beyond our differences and celebrating our joy in a common humanity. To be our ‘brother’s and sister’s keeper’.

We are re-dedicating this monument as a way of bringing people together to inspire and uplift our consciousness with the hope of spreading peace to the whole world. The wording on the Pole is intended to inspire, and re-awaken the consciousness of love, peace, and harmony which exists in every one of us.

We invite all Rivertonians, everyone, to celebrate this re-dedication of our pole for the community, our clubs, our organizations, our churches, and ourselves as individuals. We invite you to work with other groups in Riverton and our neighboring communities, so the spirit of peacebuilding remains alive.

This past month The Historical Society received a letter from Leslie Mulford Denis, an invitation, to learn about two Quaker women with multiple connections in Riverton. In her book, *Susanna Parry and Alice Paul – Quaker Rebels*, Leslie highlighted how these two women worked and struggled throughout their lives to be authentic. “...despite some failures”, they provided people trapped in poverty and inequality with safe working and living conditions. Both women worked to win women the right to vote to gain equality and promote solutions to the world’s problems. They were committed to peace and equality.

The principles of the Society of Friends (Quakers), particularly the basic tenet that human respect is inherent. The acknowledgment of that sanctity that affects the quality of care and services provided for residents, employees, and board members, our business practices, and our endeavor to interact with others in an equal, just, respectful, and loving manner.

The Quaker principle of the Rivertonian Susanna Parry and her cousin Alice Paul, Suffragette, embraced the spiritual insight that is the inscribed ideal on the Peace Pole: These principles are testimony that requires us to model peacefulness and collegiality in all our relationships and gatherings and to be open, patient, and respectful when resolving differences.

The goals of Susanna Parry (809 Main St. & Homewood Dr) and Alice Paul (of Mt. Laurel) the architect of the 19th Amendment and the Equal Rights Amendment, were both Rebels wanting “to live authentically and despite some failures, they managed to prevail”.

Both attended Swarthmore College, the college co-founded by Judge William Parry, where a lifetime of correspondence was undertaken. Over 400 documents were rediscovered in the attic of 809 Main St. and made into a book: *Susanna and Alice: Quaker Rebels* written by Leslie Mulford Denis. The author highlights the women’s aspirations and relationships with many Riverton residents. The Quaker connection with the Parry family - Susanna and Beulah and Alice Paul is a terrific Riverton link connecting us to the achievement of Peace.

In Martin Luther King’s address when accepting the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, he stated:

“Non-violence is the to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression...Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method that rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love...”.