



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

*For the preservation of the history, ancient buildings and land marks
of the Trappe area.*

Vol. XVIII No. 1

THE TRAPPE CHRONICLE

SPRING 1989

TWENTY - FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Founding of The Historical Society

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Speaker - Dr. Richard P. Richter

President of Ursinus College

"Leadership for a Community and a Nation"

Place - MOOREHEAD'S 40 First Ave. Trappe

June 14, 1989 7:00 P.M.

We most cordially invite you to this very important occasion. Help us honor our charter members, celebrate 25 years of achievement and be inspired for the future.

The Bicentennial of the Inauguration of President George Washington as the first President of the United States will be observed. This has special significance for Trappe. We shall also remember that the Rev. Frederick Muhlenberg of Trappe was present at Washington's inauguration and sat on the dais at the left of the President. Pastor Muhlenberg was the first Speaker of the First House of Representative of the first Congress of the United States.

There will be a special commemorative program booklet. A picture will be taken of the charter members and of the assembly.

Please clip and mail to Mr. Norman Holcombe, 21 Main St., Trappe, 19426

RESERVATION FOR ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Cost \$15.00 Per person including meal, gratuity, and celebration expenses.

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____
Tele. _____ Please reserve _____ places. Encl. Check for \$ _____

Please note - any cancellation after June 10th can not be refunded as dinners reserved must be paid the caterer.

1989 dues are now due. Regular ___ \$4.00. Schrack ___ \$10.00 Total enclosed \$ _____
No. persons _____

Additional Anniversary Information

A special historic display will be prepared by the Historian, Mrs. Esther Keller for the banquet.

We shall honor the memory of our first society president, Mr. Fred Grimison.

If you have memories of events or pictures of historical society events please share them by writing your stories and donating your pictures.

Headquarters Has Been Cleaned

Persons helping - Anne Schrack, Sue Ellen Palmen, Esther Keller. Dr. and Mrs. Ivan Hess have provided services of a cleaning person for a day.

We express appreciation to these members.

An Outside Workday

Saturday, June 3rd will be a day to begin repairs on the shed roof at the rear of the headquarters. Bring hammer, bar for removing shingles, step ladder, 14 foot ladder, rake, shovel.

Summer Openings

If you are interested in being a host or hostess for the Sunday afternoon openings this summer, please call the President, J.C. Shetler - 489-2624.

At the Grange Fair

At its last meeting the Board of Directors approved having a display table at the Grange Fair on Saturday, July 29th. If you are willing to assist at the table please inform us at the anniversary banquet.

The quilters will be chancing a quilt for the benefit of a charitable service.

Invite Your Friends to the Anniversary

Ask for an additional newsletter or call the president and give the names of persons you would like to have invited to the banquet. We want to pass our goal of 100 persons. Will you help us?

In The Planning Stage

Postcards of the headquarters.

Plaster models of the headquarters (suitable for gifts)

May - Historical Notes - 1989

The first and only house between Cousty's tavern - now the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel - and the house where the late Dr. Sunderland last resided, built by David Beard in 1831 - was Daddy High's mansion. It stood near where the Collegeville Railroad House now stands. It was a stately old mansion, though somewhat dilapidated, three stories high, with basement and double porches in front. It was sometimes occupied by three or four families, who had had a dozen or more dogs barking at us children in going to Evan's store.* The house caught fire and was burned in August 1838.

Adam Schrack had become the owner of the High mansion and farm before the house was destroyed by fire, and afterwards built the stone house that was used some years by the Perkiomen Railroad Company as a passenger station and freight depot.

Daddy High was a singular character; sane on some subjects, but absolutely insane on others. He talked rationally on religious subject, but foolishly imagined he was very wealthy and owned much property. He was possessed of a strange hallucination that he owned a mint-stick min the so-called "Pines"- a strip of hemlock trees on the south bank of the Perkiomen creek a short distance above the present Landis' Mills. He believed too to the day of his death that there were shad in the Perkiomen creek. He was more confirmed in his belief in that some person, in sport, put a shad in his net that he had purposely set in the creek to catch them. He was so elated with his successful catch as to prove to his neighbors that he was not mistaken, he carried his shad from house to house, as a trophy of victory over his doubting friends. He was crazy in his notion that he was doomed to be shot by an air gun that didn't crack. The small boys of the neighborhood - myself included- knowing the weakness of the old man, took pleasure in teasing him by pointing broomsticks or anything that resembled a gun.

From Local History Sketches
Henry A. Hunsicker 1908

* Evans' store is now the home of Iron Bridge Clock shop on the Lower Providence-side of the Perkiomen Bridge. EOK

Esther O. Keller Historian