



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

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

Volume VI, Number II THE TRAP CHRONICLE April, 1980

Dear Members and Friends:

Spring has arrived and we are planning a tour for all interested persons. Details follow in an article from Mrs. Hoisington who planned the day.

Mark Saturday, June 14th, Flag Day, on your calendar for our dinner meeting, which will be at Mooreheads in Trappe. The program chairman, Mrs. Louis Krug, is planning an interesting program.

I would like to say "Thank You" to our members who helped at our display table in the Plymouth Meeting Mall: Lee Haas, Betsy Ross, Robert Ulle, Lat & Evelyn Hoopes, Bill & Evelyn Clement.

A gift of \$500 was received by the Society from the First Federal Savings and Loan Association in Pottstown. Mr. Raymond S. Elliott is the president. This money will be used in our restoration work.

President

TRIP TO HISTORIC BRANDYWINE VALLEY COUNTRY - Saturday, May 10, 1980

Our trip this year will take us to the historic Brandywine Valley, a rolling segment of rural America, which is located in southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Delaware.

We will be going first to Winterthur Museum and Gardens and then to Hagley Museum.

Winterthur was founded in 1839 by James Bidermann and his wife, Evelina Gabrielle, the second daughter of Eleuthera I. Renee duPont deNumours. The estate was named after the Bidermann family's ancestral city in Switzerland. In 1857 it passed to Mrs. Bidermann's brother, Henry duPont, who held the property until his son, Colonel Henry Algernon duPont, took up residence at Winterthur in 1875. After his son died in 1969, the property was bequeathed to the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum.

All the owners of the estate contributed to creating the gardens of Winthur, but the late Mr. duPont was chiefly responsible for their present appearance. He began naturalizing bulbs on what is now called the March Walk about the turn of the century. Later he planted acres of woodland with then unknown Kuruma azaleas and Dexter rhododendrons; created the Winter-hazel walk, a collection of early blooming pink and mauve Korean rhododendrons; developed an abandoned quarry into a garden; and introduced hundreds of new plants. In 1952 the gardens were opened to the public.

We plan to leave at 9:00 a.m., arriving at Winterthur about 10:00 a.m. The George Washington wing of eighteen rooms will be open for our inspection and then we plan an early lunch in the lovely reception center cafeteria. This cafeteria features soup for 75¢, sandwiches for \$1.50, beverage for 50¢, dessert for 75¢ and quite an elaborate salad bar costing about \$3.50. We made our "dry run" in March and this salad bar was not

open, but the soup, sandwiches and pie were good. At 12 noon we are scheduled for the tram which carries 40 people which will take us all around the lovely gardens and woods. Next we are scheduled to visit the sixteen rooms of the museum after about an hour of riding on the tram.

The Winterthur Museum contains an incomparable collection of decorative arts made or used in America from 1640 to 1840. Examples of architecture, furniture, textiles, needlework, silver and other metals, ceramics, glass, paintings and prints displayed in room settings that invite the visitor to experience a part of American history.

Between 2:15 and 2:45 p.m., we will be expected at the Hagley Museum. This is located a few miles from Winterthur. It is a beautiful 19th Century community located on 200 acres near Wilmington, Delaware. The Hagley Museum, with its mills, network of buildings, and its gardens, has preserved and restored the site of the original powder works where the DuPont Company began nearly two centuries ago. The main exhibit building is an old stone cotton spinning mill. It contains working models of machinery, a unique "talking map" that tells the fascinating history of the Brandywine Valley, and many more displays. Nearby still runs the meandering Brandywine River. Other buildings which are nearby will be reached by bus. High on the hill is the magnificent wisteria-covered home of E. I. DuPont built for his family in 1803. It offers room after room of both formal and casual decor, reflecting the tastes of five generations of an industrial family. Adjoining is the garden, the barn, the copper shop, etc.

The cost of the trip will be \$13.50 and we should arrive home by 6:00 p.m. with memories of a trip you will never forget.

There are things of interest to everyone from garden lovers to bird watchers, from history buffs to art enthusiasts, from collectors of shells, folk art, and antiques to preservationists, and environmentalists.

Call Mrs. Hoisington, 489-7471 or Betsy Ross, 287-9105 for tickets. Only 37 seats so first come - first served!

FROM THE BULLARDS -

Just a note to keep you all abreast of what's been happening around the Tavern over the past month or two. First of all, the chimney over the residence has been raised therefore enabling a better draft is created for the fireplace. Second, a gas vent has been installed thereby eliminating any chance of a fire from the sparks which go up the chimney. Third, footings, as well as a cement drainage ditch, have been put in the residence basement along with a submergible pump to help keep the water out of the basement. We are currently reviewing several paint charts to completely redecorate the inside of the residence. After this redecoration is complete, we wish to have many of you over for visits. We are currently in the process of having dampers put in the fireplaces and also having the chimneys cleaned to aid in fire prevention.

We have had a couple of people offer their assistance in acquiring items for loan and display in the museum as well as in the residence. Please don't forget us. Remember if we are to make this building a place people want to bring friends to then we need all your help.

Linda and Mark, plus Joshua

HISTORIANS REPORT -

In reference to the Samuel Poley coverlet which the Society has purchased, Mr. Earl P. Bechtel sent me a very interesting letter, most of which follows:

".....As Samuel F. Poley was a father of my mother and therefore my grandfather, I thot you might like to have some of the suppositions regarding him and his connection with the coverlet confirmed. First: His father was John Poley and his Mother, Ellen Poley of Trappe. Second, He had a sister Lavina. Third: John Poley was a carpenter and contractor. Fourth: He owned the farm on Greenwood Ave. about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Route #422 and now occupied by Mr. L. Reed. I believe, but am not sure, that Samuel was born here. He operated this farm all his life. John Poley had a large carpenter shop and

a large lumber curing shed, on the west side of the road, opposite the farm house. I am told that he built the Evangelical Church at Route #422 and Greenwood Ave. Also the mansion on the corner of Route #422 and Township Line Road above Trappe.....
 ...As I have never heard of any other Samuel Poley in the Trappe area and in light of the facts, I feel sure that John Poley had this coverlet made for his son Samuel, who was born April 20, 1847."

Thank you Mr. Bechtel for this information. Your letter will be placed on file in the Library.

We have had some response to our request for items to exhibit next fall but could use many more. Please look around and check your old photos, book, linens, furniture, kitchen things, etc. Interesting things that may not be very old but were made by Trappe area residents or used by them for many years are desired.

NOW FOR A NEW REQUEST - We need a volunteer to make a set of measured drawings of the entire building of the tavern, outside and all floors inside. Is there a draftsman or architect or student in this field who would like to volunteer to do this? Call me (539-9065), Bob Ullé or Elmer Funk if you know of anyone who would be interested in doing this.

Esther O. Keller

 THE TRAP CHRONICLE -

As you sit there currently reading your newest edition of the Trap Chronicle, did it ever run through your mind what you might have done with your back issues? We are currently trying to put together a complete volume from Vol. I, No. I to the present issue of Vol. VI, No. II. Through the generosity and cooperation of Mrs. Sauer, who if you didn't know, puts in many long hours getting the paper ready for publication, we have managed to acquire most of the back issues. However, listed below are the back issues we still need to complete our work. Should you have any of these issues, please be reassured that they will be returned to you in the exact same shape as you loaned them to us. All we want to do is photocopy them for our records.

Back issues needed:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Vol. I, No. I | 6. Vol. III, No. V | 11. Vol. IV, No. III |
| 2. Vol. I, No. II | 7. Vol. III, No. VI | 12. Vol. IV, No. IV |
| 3. Vol. I, No. III | 8. Vol. III, No. VII | 13. Vol. IV, No. VI |
| 4. Vol. I, No. IV | 9. Vol. IV, No. I | 14. Vol. IV, No. VII |
| 5. Vol. I, No. V | 10. Vol. IV, No. II | 15. Vol. IV, No. VI |

Should you have any of these back issues, please call us at 489-1797 and we will make some sort of arrangements to have them picked up.

Regards, Mark Bullard

 CURATOR'S REPORT -

NEW EVENTS AT THE OLD TAVERN! When you next visit the Society Headquarters at the old Dewees Tavern, you will find a number of projects in progress. Probably the most obvious will be the archaeology work going on in the rear of the first floor. This work is being undertaken for a number of reasons. First, we are trying to discover the original location of the kitchen for the building (we know it wasn't where the present kitchen is). Second, we want to refinish the back room for use as a gift shop, and convert the rest of the first floor into a recreated nineteenth century tavern such as Mrs. Dewees must have run until her death in 1857.

As a consequence, much work is also going into the cataloging and arrangement of the museum items which the Society owns. These will be properly identified and stored, and placed downstairs in attractive exhibits each year. There is so much history to our area - from the religious history of Augustus Lutheran and St. Luke's U.C.C. churches, the educational history of Washington Hall and the Trappe Boarding School, the business

history of the many private, small businesses and our larger concerns, -- that these exhibits should prove interesting and informative to all.

And behind the exhibits, on the second floor, will be the documents and books of our own library - the Seymour S. Ross Memorial Library. Here we have genealogy books on the area's families, church histories and records, and general works on Pennsylvania and local history. If you have questions about local history - ask us. We can probably dig and give you the information you need, or direct you to someone else who can.

The hours at present are Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - with increased hours coming soon. If you get a chance, stop by and see us as we work on improving our services to you.

Robert Uile

MEMBERSHIP -

Have you paid your dues yet for 1980? It is only \$4.00 per person with Special Gift Memberships available. Talk to Charlotte.

With so much restoration and research work being done, we need your help. Send your check, payable to Historical Society of Trappe, to Mrs. Charlotte Rosser, 347 Main Street, Trappe, Pa. 19426

A new member in our Society is Elizebeth J. Gable, 118 Park Lane, Norristown, Pa. 19403. Welcome!

QUILTING -

Our quilting ladies are still working but have just about "caught up" on the quilts. If you have the top of a quilt you would like finished, give Ann Schrack, 489-4872, a call or if you would like to have the entire quilt made, talk it over with Ann.

The monies received from this work all goes into the restoration work at the Historical Society's Headquarters.

LECTURING -

One of our members, Mrs. Betsy Ross, is being invited to lecture on the history of Trappe and tell about the Historical Society.

She talked to Cub Scout Pack #87 at the Augustus Lutheran Church. The boys, being from the local area, were very much interested.

Through our display in the Plymouth Meeting Mall, she is invited to speak at the Germantown Academy in Fort Washington.

Our thanks to Betsy for her efforts in publicizing the area of Trappe and the work of the Historical Society.

CUT FOR HALF OR ALL -

As most, if not all, of you are aware wood prices have soared out of sight over the past several months. Being on a budget, as many people are these days, necessitates the continued burning of the fireplaces in the residence as well as an occasional fire on the Society building. We must be realistic and honest. We just can't afford the cost of continuing to purchase firewood at \$80, \$90, \$100 a cord. As many of you as members have access to or own wooded areas, we would be very grateful for any donations to help restock our depleted woodpile. When we moved in we had about three full cords, we are now down to less than one. If you have any wood available, we would more than be happy to cut it up and split the results or if you wish to donate any wood, we will be more than grateful to haul it away.

Either way, please give us a call at 489-1797 so we can set up a time and place for pickup. Please Help.

The Bullards.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE
Treasurer's Report 1/1/80 - 3/24/80

RECEIPTS:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Fund Raising Projects (Quilting) | \$ 202.00 |
| Genuardi's Super Markets | 37.51 |
| Map Sales | .75 |
| Membership Dues & Contributions | 767.00 |
| Rent (Bullard) | 630.00 |
| Seminar Refund (Ulle) | 54.08 |
| Transfer from Statement Sav. Acct. (Provident) | 3,000.00 |
| | <u>\$4,691.34</u> |

EXPENDITURES:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 674 Plotts Bros., Fuel Oil | 94.49 |
| 675 Peco, Electric | 6.40 |
| 676 T. Miller, Inc., Cap. Improvements (Deweese) | 3,000.00 |
| 677 Robert Ulle, Slides | 7.91 |
| 678 The Hist. Society of Mont. Co., Annual Dues | 10.00 |
| 679 Pa. Fed. of Hist. Societies, Annual Dues | 10.00 |
| 680 Tri County, Ledger Sheets for Treasurer | 5.00 |
| 681 T. Miller, Inc., Bal. Due, Cap. Improvts. | 1,370.00 |
| 682 Postmaster, Collegetown, 100-15¢ Stamps | 15.00 |
| 683 The Hist. Soc. of Pa., Annual Dues | 25.00 |
| 684 Robert Ulle, Consultation Fee, January | 160.00 |
| 685 Plotts Bros., Fuel Oil | 94.15 |
| 686 Alice Sauer, Postage, Newsletter | 6.36 |
| 687 Peco, Electric | 17.75 |
| 688 Robert Ulle, Library Books | 13.25 |
| 689 Robert Ulle, Expenses to attend Seminar | 150.00 |
| 690 Robert Ulle, Consultation Fee, February | 160.00 |
| 691 Plotts Bros., Fuel Oil | 119.47 |
| 692 Peco, Electric | 12.15 |
| 693 The Geo. Washington Univ., Tuition, Seminar | 40.00 |
| 694 Murphy Power Cleaning, Inc. (Fireplace & Flue) | 55.00 |
| | <u>\$5,371.93</u> |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| BALANCE, Checking Acct. 12/31/79 | \$1,794.59 | |
| RECEIPTS | <u>4,691.34</u> | |
| | \$6,485.93 | \$6,485.93 |


| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| Less EXPENDITURES | | <u>5,371.93</u> |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|
| *BALANCE, Checking Acct. 3/24/80 | | \$1,114.00 |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Balance, Statement Savings (Provident) 2/29/80 | 101.13 |
| Cvl. Bldg. & Loan, Cert. #1098 - 2/5/80 | 629.10 |
| Cvl. Bldg. & Loan, Cert, #1655 - 2/5/80 | <u>1,009.17</u> |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$2,853.40 |

(*) Includes Balance, Library Fund (\$557.17)

Respectfully submitted,


L. Eugene Moyer, Treasurer

ARE YOU INTERESTED in a Holly tree? Richard Holcombe and Alice Sauer will go to Millville, N.J. and bring the trees back, but just on order.

These trees had berries on them last year so will be bearing again this year. Male trees, which get flowers only, will also be gotten on order. If there is a male holly tree within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of your yard, you do not need one in your yard to get berries on the female. The bees and wind will pollinate the trees.

Call Alice, 489-2023 or Richard, 489-7265 and place your order NOW.