



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

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

VOLUME IX, Number 1 ----- THE TRAP CHRONICLE ----- January-February, 1981

Dear Members and Friends:

Since the last newsletter, I am sure everyone had an enjoyable Holiday Season.

The Christmas Open House at the Tavern was a great success and was enjoyed by a record number of people. I wish to thank the Bullards for all their work and efforts in painting and preparing the Tavern to look its best at the Open House. We also thank Ruth Huling, Jane Maris, and June Marshall for the impressive Christmas decorating in the Tavern which added that extra touch for the Christmas Season. Then there were the congenial hosts and hostesses that greeted the visitors with a warm and informative welcome; those that provided and served the refreshments with a good variety to choose from and made the Open House that much more enjoyable.

There are so many who helped in one way or another so I wish to thank everyone for the great successful day we had on December 7, 1980.

We now are into another year which we are looking ahead for many accomplishments again. As we go along doing a little at a time, it seems as though we are not accomplishing much; but at the end of the year, we see many noticeable accomplishments and that was the way it was in 1980. I am sure, it will be that way again in the coming year.

I wish to thank all the officers and committees personally that helped make 1980 the great success it was and Thank You for all your support!

Elmer R. Funk

President

Spring Tour Plans Announced -

The Spring tour this year will be a guided bus trip to Trappe's neighbor, Germantown. Many of Trappe's early settlers came through Germantown on their way to the countryside, so a return visit is entirely in order. The date is Saturday, April 25th, and a total of four colonial houses will be visited.

The earliest of the houses are the 1690 and 1707 Rittenhouse homes, which are open to the public for the first time beginning April 1st. Standing on the banks of the Monoshone Creek, in a lovely park setting, these houses were built by William and Nicholas Rittenhouse, the first papermakers in America. Nicholas Rittenhouse married Wilhelmina Dewees (a name familiar in Trappe) and they raised their family here.

Next on our visits is Stention, a Georgian building constructed by William Penn's agent, James Logan, between 1723 and 1730. During the Revolution it served as headquarters for both George Washington and General William Howe. Today, it has been furnished with 18th and 19th century furniture, and the barn has been restored and holds an exhibit of farm tools and machinery.

Our third stop will be at Cliveden house, built 1763-67 by Pennsylvania's Attorney General Benjamin Chew. This house was the focal point of the Battle of

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TRAPPE
Annual Report of the Treasurer - 1980

RECEIPTS:

Banquets	\$ 742.00
Corporate Fund Contributions	1,375.00
Fund Raising Projects	2,125.12
Genuardi's Super Markets	179.65
Historical Research	100.00
Historical Tour	550.75
Library Fund	300.00
Membership Dues and Contributions	2,083.43
Miscellaneous, Refunds	191.08
Pa. State Sales Tax	13.93
Rent (Bullards)	2,520.00
Sales, Dewees Tavern	357.16
Transfer of Funds, Statement Sav. B&L #1655	<u>4,055.21</u>
	\$14,593.33

EXPENDITURES:

Banquets, Tour and Open House	\$ 1,275.10
Dues Paid	60.00
Insurance	384.00
Library Equipment, Supplies, Books	313.07
Maintenance, Repairs, Improvements, (Dewees Tav)	9,616.40
Miscellaneous Expenses	17.91
Postage	161.32
Printing and Stationery	153.77
Purchase of Services & Seminars, Robert Ulle	2,316.75
Sale Items and Raffle Prizes	734.08
Utilities, Electric	94.07
Utilities, Fuel Oil	<u>624.50</u>
	\$15,750.97

BALANCE 1/1/80	\$ 1,794.59	
RECEIPTS	<u>14,593.33</u>	
	\$16,387.92	\$16,387.92
LESS EXPENDITURES		<u>15,750.97</u>
		\$ 636.95

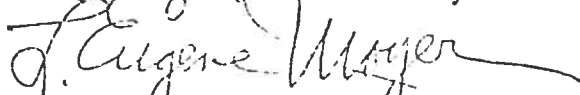
*BALANCE, CHECKING ACCOUNT 12/31/80

BALANCE, STATEMENT SAVINGS (PROVIDENT) 11/30/80	\$ 131.41
CVL. BLDG. & LOAN, CERT. #1098 - 8/8/80	<u>647.97</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,416.33

(*) Includes Balance, Library Fund (\$557.35)

Outstanding Loan Owed to Dr. Ivan W. Hess	\$ 2,100.00
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Respectfully submitted,


L. Eugene Moyer, Treasurer

Germantown, but its elegant architecture and furnishings would make it an attraction even without that connection. The extensive grounds give a feeling of seclusion from the bustle of Germantown. Our noon meal will be prepared by the Cliveden people and served to us in the 18th century barn, which today serves as a reception center.

Our last stop, the Deshler-Morris House, is also known as the Germantown White House. Built in 1772-73, it was the residence of George Washington and his family in 1793 and 1794, when most of the government officials fled Philadelphia to escape the yellow fever. This house has an unusual floor plan, and fronts on Germantown's Market Square. It is, of course, also furnished with items from the period.

The trip will begin at 9:00 a.m. and return to Trappe by 5:00 p.m. Costs are not yet determined, but will be around \$15.00 per person including transportation, all admissions, and lunch. Reservations can be made with Betsy Ross, 57 Heifer Road, Limerick, Pa. 19468, telephone 287-9105.

Historian's Report

Thank you so very much to those of you who so kindly loaned items for our display at the Open House in December. All items were returned to their owners intact and I breathed a sigh of relief.

Mr. J. H. Fenstermacher allowed us to make a photocopy of a booklet entitled "Picturesque Perkiomen Valley 1807" published by Louis A. Reed. Elizabeth Umstatt Gabel allowed us to photocopy a booklet "Umstatt Family Geneology" published about 1926. All of these are now in our library. St. Luke's United Church of Christ allowed us to photocopy a booklet entitled "215th Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation of St. Luke's United Church of Christ of Trappe 1742-1967."

Esther O. Keller, Historian

From The Tavern -

Since we last wrote, which was just after Trappe Day, we've been quite busy. We spent the next two months putting on the finishing touches for our Christmas Open House. Painting and plastering and sanding, etc. but we feel it was all worth it.

A sincere thanks goes out to all the people who helped prepare and present the Open House. We are pleased to announce that we had in excess of 215 people in attendance, the largest open house since the Bi-Centennial.

Now for some personal news. We are pleased to announce the birth of Abigail Marie Bullard, born December 30, 1980. From what we have been told she is the first individual born in the Tavern this Century. We feel very special that we have now contributed in a small way to the history of the Dewees Tavern.

Our wish to all our members for 1981 is "Peace and Happiness to All."

The Bullards

Report on Library -

The library continues to grow through the addition of donations and the purchases. If you have old cards, letters, books, maps, deeds, pictures or whatever, and would like to see if they would be appropriate for our library, please let us know.

Following is a list of newly received items:

- Americana. 1973-1980. Gift of Mark & Linda Bullard.
- Admission ticket for cotillion party at Trappe Odd Fellows Hall, May 23, 1855.
- Gift of Jean Graber Maier.

- Augustus Lutheran Church. Picture postcard post marked 1910.
- Augustus Lutheran Church. 1965 news article and photo.
- Drach, George. He Said It. Sidelights on the Life and Character of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. Trappe: 1948. Gift of Brownback Estate.
- Early American Life. 1977-1980. Gift of Mark & Linda Bullard.
- Fegely, W. O. Hope Fulfilled. A Historical Pageant of the Early Days of Church and Nation. 1926. Gift of Brownback Estate.
- Fegley, William O. The Shrine of Lutheranism. 2nd edition 1939. Gift of Brownback Estate
- Hauze, Gary Ist dieses nicht das gelobte land? History of Falckner Swamp Reformed Church 1975.
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Memoirs. Vol VIII 1867. 428 p.
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Memoirs. Vol. XIV 1895. 501 p.
- Jenkins, Charles F. The Guide Book to Historic Germantown. 1904 156 p.
- Kretschmann, Rev. Ernest T. The Old Trappe Church. 1893. Gift of Brownback Estate
- McVicker, Clarita What Is A Quaker. Souvenir of Downingtown Friends Meetinghouse, 1976.
- The Palatinate Liturgy Published in Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Falkner Swamp. 1975. Gift of Falkner Swamp Reformed Church.
- Pennsylvania Archives. Fourth Series, Vol. 1,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12
- Picture Postcard of dormitories at Ursinus College. Gift of Erma I. Walter Seaman.
- Robbins, Monzo. Letter to Dr. James Donat Graber concerning pharmaceutical license. 1888, Gift of Jean Graber Maier.
- Rollers and Strippers, Twofers and Crooks, Red Lion, Pa. 1980
- School Graduation Announcement for Lylie Miller or Upper Providence, 1896. Gift of Erma I. Walters Seaman
- Strahan, Edward. A Century After: Pictureaue Glimpses of Philadelphia. 1875.

Membership -

It is that time of year again - 1981 dues are now due: \$4.00 per person; \$2.00 for students. Special Memberships: Life membership - \$100.00; Muhlenberg - \$50.00; Dewees - \$25.00; \$10.00 Schrack.

Make checks payable to Historical Society of Trappe and mail to Mrs. Charlotte Rosser, 347 Main Street, Trappe, Pa. 19426. Thank you.

Charlotte Rosser, Chairperson

THANK YOU --

To all those who have spent many hours working on the improvement and restoration work of the Tavern, we say Thank You: Walter Sauer, Mark Bullard, Elmer Funk, Lat Hoopes, Bud Fry. Each one has given of their time and talents in order to have the powder room completed, flood lights on the parking lot, floors taken up and re-laid in search of artifacts, complete redecorating of residence, etc.

If we did not have all this FREE labor, we could not have had all this work done. So - our thanks to the workmen.

A GLANCE AT THE PAST (Article appearing in The Independent newspaper, Collegaville and written by Robert Ulle, Curator)

OLD COURTING CUSTOMS - Since Adam and Eve, there have been numerous ways in which young men and women get together. The Trappe area is not lacking in its history of courtship, as a moment's reflection over church marriage records would quickly reveal.

Just what were some of the ways in which young men and women got to know each other? Henry M. Muhlenberg, the Lutheran preacher who arrived in Trappe in 1742, recorded his own courtship of his wife, Anna Maria Weiser, more as if it had been a

courtship of her father. "I earned my board, made friends, and convinced old Weiser's sensibilities, so that he gave me his daughter as a wife, or helpmate, because at my first visit I played and sang the edifying Halle songs on his house-organ." But if Muhlenberg's courtship was remarkably pious, others in the area were not so.

Muhlenberg recorded in 1743, told of the occurrences at a marriage celebration in Providence: "a Reformed neighbor married his daughter to a man of our congregation. I had to perform the ceremony and hence was invited to be present at the wedding festivities...there were some present who scoffed at churches and preachers...The brides parents placed me, together with a number of our Lutherans, and Reformed people, in a room by ourselves and left the young people and the others in an adjoining room. We sought edification among ourselves and also sang some hymns. The scoffers in the next room began to act like mad...after admonishing them several times in vain, I went home...After I had gone the unruly people did not rest until they had seduced the young people into dancing."

One hundred thirty years later, another solid citizen of Trappe, F. S. Moser, the editor of THE INDEPENDENT, was similarly scandalized by the practices of young people. After leading a campaign for the installation of sidewalks in 1876, he noted with outrage that one of the uses to which they were put was for young men and ladies to promenade and show off for each other. Moser also noted with distaste the habit of young men to go to the church building on Sunday evening, and lounge outside, talking and smoking, until services concluded. Then, they would accost the pious young women with invitations of accompanying them home.

But Moser's biggest concern seems to have been with the college men from nearby Freeland, who were taking privileges in courting the Trappe maidens. He said, "the students of Ursinus, as observed, try to stand on their dignity and rank as high in society as possible - but with a few exceptions their whole desire is to flirt with the young ladies in this vicinity."

One might almost despair over the younger generation of the 1870's. But, there were more sedate and comfortable romances, not conducted so much in the public eye. We wonder if we get a glimpse of one of these in the following excerpts of an 1884 diary, signed by Frank G. Fuhrman and now in the collections of the Trappe Historical Society (the gift of Mrs. Grace F. Cloake of Collegeville).

Sunday, June 8, 1884, In the forenoon I was after strawberries, and at Hildenbride's for dinner.

Sunday, June 15, 1884 I was at Charles Hildenbride's for supper and then at Tabernacle meeting.

Sunday June 29, 1884 This was the last night that I went to see Essie A. Hildenbride.

Who Was That Lady? - One of the first of the homemakers who combined domestic work with a profession in this country, this woman produced four novels, raised all her children alone after she'd been widowed, and claimed never to have sacrificed to her pen "one social, or one domestic duty." She lived from 1759 to 1855. Who was that lady? - Mrs. Sally Keating Wood.

Quilting -

The ladies are still busy quilting in Augustus Lutheran Church on Mondays. They really do appreciate the Church giving them the use of the room which is cozy and warm. Several of the quilters are members of Augustus Lutheran Church.

One of the quilters has composed the following poem about the group and we would like to share it with you.

(see next page)

The Busy Bees

by Lee Haas (Mrs. Henry Haas)

There's a special group of ladies
No doubt you've heard about
If you don't know about them
I'm here to tell and shout
These gals meet every Monday
Come rain or come shine
With their smiling faces
and flying needles - They are all very fine
Not famous or great who then can they be
There's Anne and Alice - and Clara and Anna -
There's Evelyn, Thelma & Charlotte & Lee
They all have their thimble and own special seat
and Ocpes - there's Sammy who's always at our feet.

No gossip is done - but there's always a joke
With an occasional 'ouch' - and "thread please" is spoke
"Bury your knots" - ladies and don't sew in a bunch
Then before you know it - it's time for lunch.

Then it's straight back to work we do
with great haste and always remember
with no thread to waste.
Whether it's a historical quilt - we sew with pleasure
To many an heirloom quilt we do for a pleasure
We're the busy ladies who work at the Quilting Bee
The quilters of Trappe historical Society.

(Explanation - The Sammy mentioned is the toy poodle of
the Sauters who enjoys eating lunch with
the ladies)