



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

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

VOLUME XI, Number 1

THE TRAP CHRONICLE

First Quarter, 1983

HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHFUL NEW YEAR !

From The President -

I wish to thank all those members who worked so hard to help the Society along. As we work together doing a little at a time, it may seem at though not much is being accomplished. But at the end of the year when we look back on the different activities, there is a noticeable change for the betterment of the Society. I feel each year since the Society was organized we have made important strides and last year fits well into the previous achievements.

I trust everyone had a enjoyable Holiday Season; a time to increase family love and friendships. Now as we start another historic year, I am sure you will be receiving new blessings this year of 1983.

As a bit of information, at the last Board Meeting of the Trappe Historical Society, it was decided that the newsletter (The Trap Chronicle) would be printed quarterly (or seasonal) instead of bi-monthly. Also if there are any events planned that fall between the printing of the newsletter, a special mailing will be made to inform the membership of these activities. So that means you will receive four newsletters a year instead of six.

Thank you, everyone, who helped this past year whether it was a small or large contribution.

Sincerely,

Elmer R. Frank

From The Tavern -

Happy New Year from the Bullards. It's our hope that 1983 will be a year of prosperity and new found friendships for all the members of the Society.

This is the year of fixing up around the Tavern. We may ask several of you to assist in the clean up and fix up of several projects we have in mind. We're still waiting for the third floor in the museum to be completed as well as general clean-up for our opening of the museum. We'd like to thank all those people who made 1982 a success.

We've added several new attractions to the museum which we feel will greatly increase our attendance this year. The gift shoppe will be stocked with some new and useful articles. Please feel free to stop in at your leisure. If we're not open, then call Linda at 489-1797. We hope to see you all sometime this year.

The Bullards

Ways & Means Committee -

The Historical Society in conjunction with College Flag & Mfg. Co. is offering for sale an assortment of popularly sized United States Flags and boxed outfits for home use. The flags are available in sizes 3 x 5 feet, 4 x 6 feet and 5 x 8 feet in National Nylon, Storm King Cotton Bunting, or Polydura materials. The Boxed Flag Outfits consist of a 3 x 5 feet Cotton U.S. Flag, a 6 feet two section aluminum pole, with plastic eagle, halyard and bracket, with screws for mounting. Support your local organization. For information, call 489-2212 or 489-1797. A flag would make a wonderful gift.

June Marshall, Chairperson

Membership -

1983 dues are payable NOW!! A statement in the next Newsletter will show you your financial standing.

Charlotte Rosser, Chairperson

Quilters -

After a Christmas vacation, we are back at work quilting. We will be working on two twin bed quilts featuring the Dresden plate design. We hope to have them ready for our Spring Flag Day dinner. They will be for sale. Come and join us if you can quilt or would like to learn to quilt. Do you have a quilt ready to be finished by us? Let us know.

Anne Schrack

Publicity -

If you have an item of interest to the Society and its members, please mail it to the Headquarters and we will be very glad to publish it. We are trying to have an interesting and informative newsletter and you can help by sending in your suggestions and information. It will be appreciated.

Alice Sauer

List of Aquisitions from November 1, 1981 to December 1, 1982:

- Book, Early Pennsylvania Medicine by Louis Alois Meier, 1976. Gift.
- Hymnal, First Hymnal for the use of the Reformed Church of the United States, published 1887-91. Gift of Adeline Kulp.
- Newspaper, first issue of the Providence Independent, June 3, 1875. Gift of Adeline Kulp.
- Framed Birdseye View of Collegeville, 1894. Gift of Mildred and Edgar Grater.
- Book, Volume II, Hunsicker History of Montgomery County. Gift of Edgar and Mildred Grater.
- Postcards, 48 different views of the area. Gift of Mildred and Edgar Grater.
- Wooden Butter Carrier, stamped L. C. Brant, Limerick. Gift of the Community Club of Collegeville.
- Large American Flag and three small American Flags, all 48 stars. Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Donovan Moore.
- Tape and Typed transcript Farm Conditions at the Turn of the Century by Earl P. Bechtel, May 1, 1982.
- Letterhead - W. W. Harley, Farm Implements.
- Picture of the Umstead Family taken about 1906 on the porch of Washington Hall. Gift of Elizabeth Gabel.
- Upholstered wooden platform rocker, originally from the Funk farm on Route #29 (now demolished). Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Templeton.
- Manuscript, Trappe 1880 - 1980, written by E. O. Keller for Montgomery County, The Second Hundred Years. Gift.
- Manuscript, Collegeville, 1880 - 1980, written by Elizabeth Yost for Montgomery County, The Second Hundred Years. Gift of Elizabeth Yost.
- Coverlet, woven by Samuel Gilbert, Trappe, Pa. 1844 for Catherine Shunk. Purchase.
- Collection of five advertising items: 12" ruler, Collegeville Mills; two wooden lead pencils, S. S. Buckwalter; leather key case, Tyson Motor Co.; and a palm leaf fan, Charles J. Franks. Gift.
- Program, Perkiomen Valley Hunt Farmers Day, Tally-Ho Farm Thanksgiving, 1938. Gift.
- Paperweight - Glass with picture under of Collegeville National Bank. Gift.
- Photocopy of map of Route #29, Hopwood Road and Mennonite Road with owners of the farms, drawn by Claude G. Crist from memory of the area during his childhood. Mr. Crist was born in 1893.
- Three Volumes - The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, reprinted with additional information of the original by Theodore G. Tappert and John W. Doberstein, 1982.
- Three sets of deep metal storage shelves for storage. Gift of the Community Club of Collegeville.
- An additional note - Early in December of 1982, we received a large donation, anonymously, of 23 items which are to be known as the Frank J. Poley Collection. This group consists of documents, photographs, books, silver, furniture and other items which all belonged to relatives of Frank J. Poley or to him. This collection will be arranged for exhibit later this year, at which time a precise listing will be available.

CINDER PATH CELEBRATION

EVANSBURG REJOICES, EATS AND DISCUSSES VILLAGE NEEDS - BOUND TO
GET ON THE MAP, AND THEY WILL

Village improvement at Evansburg received a mighty boost in that ancient burg on Saturday evening. It was the outcome of a cinder path, just completed, leading from the village over private property along Evansburg road to the trolley at Ridge Pike.

The hero of the improvement was or is E. F. Gordon; so the jubilation on Saturday evening was called "Gordon's Cinder Path Celebration," and was held in St. James' parish house.

There was a gathering, a banquet and speaking. Though held in the church annex, it was not a denominational, but a community affair, with several outsiders thrown in.

The cinder path was the general text, but other needed improvements were discussed (shall we say projected?) in order that Evansburg may have place on the map of Pennsylvania, which at present it has not.

After the banquet, Rev. W. L. Steck acted as toastmaster, and well he did it. Music was furnished by the Consonance Quartette, of Trooper, male voices.

Then Evansburg's grand old man, D. Morgan Casselberry, was presented. Mr. Casselberry was 86 on April 3rd, and therefore was well qualified to speak on "The Old Time." No one in the program filled his part better than D. Morgan.

It almost took the young one's breath when Mr. Casselberry started by saying he came to Evansburg 80 years ago. Six years he lived in an adjoining township. Then there were five schools in Lower Providence. They had from 70 to 80 pupils per school. Shannonville school had up to 100. Teachers received from \$20 to \$25 per month. About 1832, the free schools started and there was much opposition and the townships voted on the question of adopting them. Lower Providence voted down the free schools for several years. Finally it was felt that free schools would surely come. So the leading men concluded it would be wiser to vote for directors who would favor a short term. So the free schools started with a short term.

Mr. Casselberry gave an interesting account of old Perkiomen bridge, and financing of it. It was built about 1799. Part of the money was raised by lottery. Permission was given by the Legislature, approved by the Governor, to raise money this way. The entire community got interested. The Mennonite people favored the bridge, and wanted to see it paid for but at first were opposed to raising money by lottery. So all the congregations, or their representatives, held a meeting to discuss the matter. The meeting decided that the Mennonite people might take part in the lottery, inasmuch as it was for so good a cause. Some of the tickets used, the speaker said, may still be seen at the Commissioner's office.

Then, too, money was raised by tollgate. For five years a gate was located on the west end of the bridge. Joseph Beerer was the keeper. The original charter stated that no gate dare to be erected within one mile of the bridge. By a trick in the Legislature at Harrisburg that provision was stricken out, and a gate was

located on the bridge. This was about 1867. This angered the community and one man always carried an axe when he drove across the bridge. He threatened to break down the gate and would have done so. He was feared and was allowed to cross without paying. Finally, the tollhouse was burned at night, and thrown down over the bridge. Later, another house was built, somewhere in Collegeville, and at night put into place on the bridge. In the morning the public found another tollhouse and gate and keeper on the job. This aroused the bitter feeling anew, and after some time this house, too, was thrown over the bridge (this time in Robinson's meadow) and burned. The toll question was taken to court and then to the Supreme Court. The latter court decided that the Legislature had no right to change the provision in the bridge charter, which was that no gate dare be located nearer the bridge than one mile, and that settled it. Thereafter the gate was located in the upper end of Collegeville, remaining there until the pike was freed.

Mr. Casselberry then gave some information about the history of sidewalks in Evansburg. About 1873 gravel and gas tar walks were put down for some distance. Having no solid foundation, these did not last. Later, Theodore Hallman gave flat stone from his farm and the citizens laid them. The Hallman quarry soon gave out. Then Edward Cleaver found a bed along Skippack creek and quarried enough to complete the stone walks.

In 1861, when war in the air, the Republicans and Democrats met in Evansburg in separate buildings for military drill for an emergency call. One night some person posted a piece of paper over the transom of the door where the Republicans met bearing these words: "White men meet here." This caused bitter feeling. It was never found out who put up the sign.

Mr. Casselberry sat down amidst loud applause.

Rev. F. S. Ballentine then took occasion to comment on Mr. Casselberry's interesting address, called it a valuable contribution to local history.

Hon. H. K. Boyer was next presented as a son of Evansburg. He said his memory, too, went back some, and that he remembered going to school at Evansburg in 1854. Referring to the cinder path and public improvements, the speaker cited some important needs, one being that Evansburg should be on the map. First - the postal authorities at Washington should be asked to change the name of the post office, so that it and the village have the same name. He suggested Evans Lane, two old family names. The next need is: Take up the old stone walks, sell the stone, and put down a good pavement, if nothing else, then gravel.

Mr. Boyer's recommendations were received with applause.

A. E. Barker spoke next on "The Home Seeker and Evansburg." He urged that the muddy streets and walks be gotten rid of. Rightly he said it would help real estate and the village generally.

F. M. Bailey spoke on "The New Comer and Evansburg." This class ought to take an interest in community affairs, and they are doing it. He urged the importance of appearance to a village; urged local meetings to discuss community questions at least once a month, and said this would be of mutual benefit - one could learn from the other.

"The County Press and Evansburg" was responded to by B. Witman Dambly, of Skippack.

Douglas Beyer of Jeffersonville, spoke on the work accomplished by their Village Improvement Association, citing sidewalks, electric lighting and oiling the streets. He said that as a result of their work, Port Kennedy and Oaks are organizing or have organized similar associations.

Harry Alderfer next spoke briefly on "The Auditing Committee." He spoke of the cinder walk improvement and how the work was done.

The toastmaster proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for the supper. It was promptly given by a rising vote.

Most of the speakers referred to the kindness of George Hoeger in donating the cinder for the path. Mr. Hoeger was on the program for a toast, but was absent, as were also Joseph Johnson and ex-Governor Pennypacker.

It is predicted that the results of this meeting and celebration will be far-reaching. A success it certainly was - as much so as is the half-mile cinder path. May there be more of both - walks and meetings.

The above article appeared in a local newspaper clipping on file in our library. The name of the paper has been cut off, but Volume XXIII, No. 44 is present. In pencil is the notation April 8, 1911.

SUMMARY TREASURER'S REPORT - 1982

BALANCE 1/1/82	\$ 1,065.33	
RECEIPTS	<u>11,632.71</u>	
	\$12,698.04	\$12,698.04
LESS EXPENDITURES		<u>11,460.29</u>
*BALANCE, CHECKING ACCOUNT 12/31/82		\$ 1,237.75
BALANCE, STATEMENT SAVINGS (PROVIDENT)		<u>3,806.46</u>
TOTAL ASSETS, 12/31/82		\$ 5,044.21

*(Includes Balance, Library Fund, \$260.20)

Remaining loan balance of \$1,400.00, was paid in full to Dr. Ivan W. Hess, 12/31/82, allowing us to begin the new year debt free.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Eugene Moyer
L. Eugene Moyer, Treasurer