



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

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

 VOLUME XV, NUMBER 2

THE TRAPPE CHRONICLE

 SECOND QUARTER, 1986

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The summer of 1986 - one which I am sure we will all remember for a very long time. The National Weather Bureau says it is the hottest summer in history. It's funny how people take history for granted. Every day in the paper there's a column "Today in History", or on the radio they have a one minute spot dedicated to what happened on that specific date in history. History is just that, a small time capsule of millions of days, billions of hours compressed into a few seconds of remembering and reporting. That is why it is so very important that we cherish and preserve those few precious seconds we all remember. We should all be familiar with Mr. Abner Doubleday, the gentleman credited with the founding of our national past time - baseball. Few people however remember Captain Abner Doubleday, in charge of security of Fort Sumner in 1861. Captain Doubleday was the person who is also credited with firing the first shot of the Civil War. All these events frozen in time yet we remember. The most vast and complete storehouse of knowledge and history is ourselves, our mind. A mind is a precious and delicate piece of equipment. Treat it well, feed it all the knowledge we can and someday it will pay you back countless rewards. Every night when we go to sleep we close another page of history. Never again will we have the opportunity to relive or change the events which happened except in our minds. It is so important that we take every opportunity to make our very existence count. This is why we must cherish those gifts which God has given us - ourselves.

Mark Bullard

HISTORIANS REPORT:

Some information gleaned about David and Mary Catherine DeWees at the Berks County Historical Society.

David DeWees, born August 24, 1766, married first a Sarah Willets, by whom he had one child, Mary. His second wife was Mary Catherine Seltzer as we all know, and perhaps she was largely responsible for his eventually becoming an innkeeper. Her father, Jacob Seltzer, arrived in Philadelphia from Germany September 19, 1752 and settled in Heidelberg Township, Berks County, in an area where later Womelsdorf was laid out. In 1762 he operated a hotel in the town which was known as the "Seltzer House". Mary Catherine was born in 1770. David, according to a grandson, J. Warren Royer, of Trappe, was in the trade of a hat fuller "and better to prosecute his business he ran a little mill on a branch of the Tulpehocken (creek) in the northwestern part of Berks county, Pa., making his home at Womelsdorf, a town fourteen miles above Reading". According to the Tax records of Heidelberg Township, David does not appear from 1788 to 1795 inclusive; he does appear 1796, 97 and 1798. His first child, Mary, was born in December of 1788, and his second, by Mary Catherine was born in 1791. On the deed of the original property he bought in Trappe in 1797 (the first tavern) he was noted as a storekeeper of Tulpehocken Township in Berks County.

CURATOR REPORT:

How many of you know what a CLAVIER is? I certainly didn't until last December when a kind lady, Mary Kleintop, called and asked if our Society would like to have her mother's clavier, which she used when she was a student at Ursinus College in 1898. I thought it was a sort of musical instrument, so, naturally, I said yes, we would. When Mark brought it back to the museum, I realized it was not what I expected. It looked like a small piano, but we couldn't figure out how to get music from it. I did some research and lo and behold! You are not supposed to get a tune from this instrument, it was designed for silent practice for pianists while traveling or needing practice in areas where other people would be disturbed by the music. Here we have the grandfather of today's electronic piano with earphones! There is nothing new under the sun. Recently, Mrs. Kleintop gave us four pieces of sheet music of the late 19th Century, an exercise book for the clavier, and a folding chair, all of which were used by her mother, Annie Thomas when she was a music student at Ursinus. Come by and visit us and see this unusual instrument.

ESTHER KELLER

PROPERTY CHAIRMAN REPORT:

So far in 1986 we have either completed the following or am in process of completing the following:

1. We have installed three new storm windows on the third floor.
2. Elmer Funk has put electricity on the third floor as well as installed heat.
3. An outside light has been installed to brighten the front corner of the museum.
4. Track lights have been installed in the museum.
5. Painting is progressing on the outside of the building.
6. Work will commence in the Fall on insulating the attic over the old kitchen.

If you could spare a couple hours we sure could use your help.

FRED CONARD

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Those of you who still owe your dues for 1986 please send them in immediately or we will be forced to drop your name from the register. We are having an excellent year. Membership has remained the same and even some new members are joining.

BEVERLY REICHENBACH

QUILTERS REPORT:

President's note: Seeming to always put the Quilters last I must say that without such ladies as these we probably would not even have a Society. Their accomplishments and assistance are indispensable.

Since beginning the Quilters 10 years ago the group has completed hundreds of quilts and has raised over \$5,000.00 for the Society. Please remember we are here for you, helping you helps us. For more information please call me at 489-4872. Best wishes.

Anne Schrack

PRESIDENT'S NOTE: It is with deep regret that I must announce the death of our previous Curator, Mr. Robert Ulle. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and child.

SPECIAL EVENT

TRAPPE DAY - 1986

1. DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1986
2. PLACE: COLONIAL PLANTATION
RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK
MEDIA, PA. 19063
3. DEPARTURE TIME: WE WILL LEAVE HEADQUARTERS AT 1:00 P.M.
4. RETURN TIME: OUR DISCRETION

As is customary, we should all meet at Augustus Lutheran Church for the 10:30AM Service. From Church we all return to our respective homes for lunch then meet back at the Headquarters for our 1:00 PM departure. We will press a few cars into service for the trip to the Plantation. Directions and maps will be passed out at the museum.

On that day we will have cookies and punch available at the museum upon our return.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

