



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

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

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THE TRAP CHRONICLE

THIRD QUARTER, 1983

FROM THE PRESIDENT -

I wish to thank Mrs. Kathleen Hoisington and Mrs. Betsy Ross for the great job they did in arranging our Spring tour to Old New Castle, Delaware. The tour was one of the best and most interesting we have had so far. Anyone who missed the tour missed a great, well planned tour and should make a point to visit Old New Castle sometime in the future.

A thanks to all who supported the tour and helped make the day a success and I'm sure no one was disappointed.

We had our semi-annual dinner meeting at Mooreheads on Flag Day, June 14th. The attendance was not as large as usual, but we had a good meeting. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Shetler for her flower arrangements that were on the tables; Mrs. Krug for planning the program which was presented by Oliver and Dottie Reed on "Carousels."

The next semi-annual dinner meeting will be held on Friday, November 11th, 1983. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. At this meeting there will be an election of officers serving for a term of two years.

Thank you all for your support and I hope you have a great summer.

Elmer R. Funk, President

HISTORIANS REPORT -

The work on the third floor of the museum is nearly finished. When all is completed, the entire building will be cleaned and when things are put back in place, we will be able to open, at least for a part of the summer. The work of renovation has been carried out under an 80% Montgomery County Community Development Block Grant (we are responsible for the remaining 20%) for \$7,500. and includes complete insulation, new plaster, wiring for electric lighting and heat, storm windows and sealing the wood floor. The work is being done by John M. Conti, Inc., of Wagontown, lowest bidder on the project and he is doing an excellent job. Mr. P. Richard Frantz, A.I.A., of Pottstown has very generously donated his time and talent to help effect this grant and we sincerely thank him for his efforts on our behalf. The third floor will not

be a public area of the museum building but will be used for a work room for the curators and for storage of artifacts temporarily not on display.

Esther O. Keller, Historian

FROM THE QUILTERS -

We are working on a large quilt and have two small quilts on private consignment. Do you have any future work for us?

We have two twin bed size (Dresden plate design) that we would like to sell; also several crib quilts. Please call Ann, 489-4872.

Anna Schrack, Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP -

Just to remind those who have not paid their dues for 1983, please pay them. Regular dues - \$4.00 a year per person; Students - \$2.00 per year. Special Memberships: Life - \$100.00, Muhlenberg - \$50.00, Dewees - \$25.--, Schrack - \$10.00. Please 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

TREASURERS REPORT -

A treasurers report was presented at the Board of Directors meeting covering January, 1983 to June 6, 1983. The following are some of the receipts listed: Membership dues and contributions - \$465.45; Quilting - \$132.00; Sale of flags and other items - \$123.06.

A big "Thank You" to our treasurer, Rev. L. Eugene Moyer, for keeping our accounts in very good order.

The following page is an article sent in by our Historian, Esther Keller,

A big "Thank You" to Esther. She really works very hard for our Society, and does it all very willing and without expecting a reward. We do appreciate all the time and work she does for the Society.

OLD CHURCH ROAD, EVANSBURG, FROM GERMANTOWN PIKE JUST EAST OF ST. JAMES
CHURCH TO THE SKIPPACK CREEK, CIRCA 1927 - 1947

by Dorothy Brosz Morganstern
November 1982

In 1927 my Dad, William J. Brosz, bought three quarters of an acre from the Cauffman - Thomas farm on Germantown Pike near Old Church Road in Evansburg. The farmhouse stands there today as an apartment building, but the barn is long gone. We bought milk, eggs, and sausage from them - a daily trip to the milkhouse was fun for us, and we occasionally rode the pony housed in the barn. Our lot was divided by a lane from the back of the Risher property (Risher Flowers, now Risher Van Horn) and Howard's father started with a small greenhouse as a hobby.

There were several houses fronting on Germantown Pike whose back yards came to Old Church Road, but at that time there were no houses on Old Church Road except for one at the bottom of the hill overlooking Skippack Creek. The road was not very well kept as it descended to the Skippack, but the old Victorian type dwelling there was an interesting one. At that time it was used as a summer camp for the Philadelphia based Lighthouse Settlement House. After we moved there my Dad would pick up about six children each week from the trolley stop on Level Road and Ridge Pike. They would stay the week. I wish I had pursued the history of that house, but at that time I was too young to care. If it had electricity it must have come from across the creek. It was not the usual tenant farmer house, either. Perhaps it was built as a summer home for someone years before.

There were no poles for electricity or telephone so my Dad had to have them brought down from the Germantown Pike entrance to Old Church Road. He built our home within the year and we enjoyed life there as kids, - ball playing in the cornfields, hiking through the woods along the Skippack, swimming in the summer and skating and sledding in the winter.

We attended H. K. Boyer School (I think it is a police building now). There were two grades in a room, grades one thru eight. After that you could attend either Norristown or Collegeville High School. Most of us chose Collegeville and we walked the two miles to school, often in winter clinging high snow drifts on Germantown Pike near what is now the Superior Tube plant. No snow days then - no busses!

Old Church Road was almost impossible to drive on much beyond our home (about 250 feet from Germantown Pike). At the bottom there was a swinging bridge for pedestrians, but to cross the creek by auto was almost impossible unless the water level was very low. Years before horses evidently forded the creek.

On the other side there was a large farmhouse to the right, and, I think, two tenant houses on the left before you got to Fern Avenue. From there to Grange Avenue I believe there was not much vehicular traffic, and only one house on the left hand side going east. From Grange Avenue on the road became Old Baptist Road and ended in a grassy lane exiting on to Ridge Pike at the Baptist Church, hence the change in name.