



# 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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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

That time of year is rapidly approaching when we can all sit back and reflect on what we can be thankful for. Besides my wonderful family and friends, I can find myself giving thanks to all the wonderful members who have donated so much time and effort into the Society. This year we celebrate our 20th anniversary and as the ad people put it "we've come along way baby", from a once worn down and broken building to the community showplace it is today. It couldn't have done without a lot of help, your help, and the help of dozens of people just like you. You made this Society what it is today and are the backbone of what it will be tomorrow. Remember, as long as there is but one member left to carry on the work we have started the Society will survive, we will prosper and we will grow. Don't forget our Dinner Meeting in November. More about that later.

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QUILTERS :

We have been busy quilting all summer and are pleased to welcome a new member to our group. Her name is Jane Widmann and her husband is a carpenter and has made us a new set of quilt trestles. We are happy to have Jane join us and are very pleased with the new trestles. We are now scheduling quilts for the winter, should you or a friend need one done for you pass the word along we will both appreciate it in the end.

Anne Schrack  
Chairperson

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MEMBERSHIP:

I am pleased to announce that since our last letter we have been fortunate enough to add a couple new members to our rolls. I am especially pleased to welcome Pastor Herbert H. Michel, the new Pastor of Augustus Lutheran Church. Born in Germany, Pastor Michel brings an avid interest in the Muhlenberg Family and the Trappe area .

## GOING TO SCHOOL EIGHTY YEARS AGO

by Henry H. Fetterolf

(This article appeared in the Bulletin of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Vol I, No 2, pg 86, April 1937, a paper read before the Society February 22, 1927. Captain Fetterolf was born September 24, 1839 and wrote this paper at 87)

Those who have been favored by a kind Providence with a long life find it refreshing occasionally to take a retrospect of the past and recall incidents and associations of their youthful days. Many things that happened in the past will be forgotten, but the incidents which center around the old School House will linger on as long as memory lasts. Just to remind us of the flight of time, I will state that when my school days began James K. Polk was President of the United States, and Francis R. Shunk, Governor of Pennsylvania. It was in the fall of the year 1845 (81 years ago) when my mother packed the lunch, and with my two older sisters I started off to school.

I well remember the lonely road we traveled. About six hundred yards from our home the road led into the woods, and continued in the woods until that quaint old building was reached. It stood at the edge of the woods on the road leading from Rahns to the Limerick township line, and about midway between the two points. The schools at this time were still conducted under the old system - the parents paying so much per day for each pupil. Skippack township, in which my parents lived at that time, had not yet adopted the Common School Law. I, therefore, had the experience in my school days of the old and new systems. Under the old custom the school term opened late in the fall and ended early in the spring. Some boys and girls attended until they were twenty-one years of age, and the school room was full nearly the whole term. The desks in this old building were fastened to the wall, and the pupils who occupied them sat facing the wall on benches without back rests. Only those who had penmanship had the privilege of using desks. At this time penmanship was still taught with the use of the goose quill.

A large stove stood in the center of the room in which wood was used for fuel, and there was plenty of it at that time. The small pupils sat on benches on either side of the stove. The water bucket stood on a short slab bench on the left side of the door, and the rusty tin cup at the side of it from which all drank. Above the bucket hung by a strap the famous old paddle, which took the place of a sentinel on guard. On the one side of the paddle was the word "in" and on the other side was the word "out", and no one was allowed to go out when the word "out" appeared on the inside. The teacher's desk was on the opposite side of the entrance. On the window behind him were the weapons with which he enforced discipline, and they were quite frequently used with telling effect. The schools in those days were in charge of a Board of Trustees. They employed the teachers, kept the building in repair, and furnished the fuel. That was about the extent of their duties. There were no taxes to collect, no teachers to pay and no curriculum to adopt. The three R's were the principal studies in those days. A few studied geography. During the time I was a pupil in the old building, the children of about twenty-five families attended the same school. I herewith submit their names. The Shupes, the Graters, the Cotwalses, the Keplers, the Rahns (four families), the Detwilers, the Petermans, the Spares, the Custers, the Poleys, the Gross's, the Bickharts, the Shafers, the Keyzers, the Kookers, the Markleys, the Yergers, the Koons, the Fetterrolfs, the Rosenberys, and the Trumbauers.

Harking back to my early school days, I am pleased to note that quite a number of the boys who attended school where I did in this famous old building became useful and prominent citizens in after years. I recall that one became a preacher, one a doctor, one President of Girard College, six became master mechanics. two successful in business, and some became successful farmers. Six served in the Union Army during the Civil War, one of whom (Henry P. Koons) was killed in battle, two were wounded, one attained a captain's commission, and, with the other two, returned from the service unharmed.

It is to noted that the incidents here related occurred a long time before the Perkiomen District was created. At that time it was included in Skippack township.

The old records show that the township adopted the Common School Law in 1849, and the first tax levied to conduct the schools for the year amounted to \$1007.50. Conditions then and now make food for thought.

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DINNER MEETING:

As of this letter we are scheduled to celebrate our annual Dinner Meeting on Sunday, November 11th at 2 P.M. at the Grange HALL on Main Street in Trappe. Prices are not available at printing and a flyer will be sent to each and every one of you well in advance of the Dinner. Please mark your calendar so that you might attend.

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FROM THE BULLARDS:

I think I can speak for my whole family when I say that this summer has been one of, if not the most enjoyable ones we have had since we have lived here. As you can see by the new paint on the Tavern, we are progressing well in our endeavor to repaint the Tavern. We anticipate that the first floor will be completed this fall with the remainder next spring and summer.

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL READERS OF THIS LETTER .....

Please extend a very warm welcome back to our Reverend Eugene Moyer who has recently returned to us from a stay in the hospital where he had undergone major surgery. Our prayers and thoughts were with him and his family in this time of concern. Welcome back Reverend Moyer.....

# ANNOUNCEMENT

SPECIAL EVENT...SPECIAL EVENT...SPECIAL EVENT

HISTORIC AUGUSTUS CHURCH CELEBRATION.....

WHEN : SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1984

WHERE: AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
717 MAIN STREET  
TRAPPE, PA.

TIME: PLEASE REFER TO LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION REGARDING TIME AND EVENTS.

EVENT: WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGREGATION  
AND SUBSEQUENT CHURCH AT TRAPPE. THE "OLD CHURCH"  
IS PRESENTLY THE OLDEST UNALTERED LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN AMERICA.

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING

# HEAR YE, HEAR YE.

SPECIAL EVENT...SPECIAL EVENT...SPECIAL EVENT

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.....

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1984

WHERE: KEYSTONE GRANGE NO. 2  
MAIN STREET, TRAPPE, PA.

TIME: DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 2 P.M.

COST: ADULTS, \$ 6.00 per  
CHILDREN ( 12 and under ) NO CHARGE

MENU: TURKEY WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL NORMAN HOLCOMBE AT 489-7266





# Coming Events



SPECIAL EVENT... SPECIAL EVENT

C H R I S T M A S     O P E N     H O U S E

WHEN: SUNDAY DECEMBER 2, 1984

WHERE: HEADQUARTERS, 305 MAIN STREET, TRAPPE, PA.

TIME: 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

COME AND CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH A FEW FRIENDS.

TASTE OUR MULLED CIDER AND TASTE OUR HOME BAKED GOODIES.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME BE THEY MEMBER OR NON-MEMBER

