



The Historical Society of Trappe Pennsylvania

VOLUME I

NUMBER I

September 1974 Newsletter

Dear Members & Friends,

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Trappe Days are fast approaching and I am sure they will be exciting. This year, by the action of the Board of Directors, they will be separated. By this, I mean the celebration will be held on two weekends, namely, Sunday, September 15th and Saturday, September 21st.

The Agenda for Sunday, September 15th, I am listing below. If you cannot attend all, maybe you can attend some of it.

- 10:30 am - We will attend worship services at the Old Trappe Church as a group.
- 12:00 pm - Picnic at the Trappe Boro Park, West 1st Avenue, Trappe. Bring your own picnic and place setting. The only thing that is provided is the tables.
- 1:00 pm - Program of Recognition of Trappe, being named a Revolutionary Bi-Centennial Community which will be directed by Frank Eld, Bi-Centennial Chariman. Also, formal presentation of Ninety-nine year lease between Saint Lukes Church and the Historical Society for the DeWees Tavern.
- 1:30 pm - Bus Tour- Leave Saint Lukes parking lot for Bus Tour of Pottsgrove Mansion and Yellow Springs Revolutionary War Hospital and William Stepp Home, Linfield. Cost of Bus will be \$2.00 per person. Reservations must be made by September 11, 1974. Call Charles Wismer at 489-7681 or write 96 east 3rd avenue, Trappe, Pa. 19426.
- 2:00 pm - Arrive Pottsgrove Mansion for guided tour of this beautiful Old Mansion.
- 3:30 pm - Arrive Yellow Springs Revolutionary War Hospital, Chester Springs for guided tour.
- 5:00 pm - Arrive William Stepp House, Linfield for the Annual Reinactment of George Washington's Letter to Congress written from this home.
- 5:45 pm - Back home in Trappe.

I hope that all members will support the efforts of the Trappe Days Committee.

Saturday, September 21, 1974. Annual Antiques Show & Sale.

.....The Annual Antiques Show and Sale under the auspices of the Historical Society of Trappe, will be held Saturday, September 21, 1974, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm at Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, Pa.

.....Seventeen antiques dealers, some of whom have never shown in this area before, will offer antiques and collectibles for every taste. Fine China, Glassware, Pottery, Tinware, Dolls, Toys and Jewelry as well as Furniture will be offered for sale.

.....Plenty of Free Parking Space * Hostesses in Colonial Dress * Good Food and an Historic Setting will all add up to an interesting day in the beautiful Perkiomen Valley. The Historic "Old Trappe Church" erected in 1743 will be open that day with FREE guided tours for visitors.

.....Priceless family heirlooms will be on display in the "Loan Exhibit." The Public is invited.

BICENTENNIAL NEWS

For the past six months, the Trappe Bicentennial Committee has been actively working to lay the foundation of our Community participation in our nations 1976 celebration. The members are: Frank Eld, Chairman; Barbara Eld; Ken Whitman; William Stepp; L. Eugene Moyer, Treasurer; Eugene Blue, Artist; Charles Wismer; George Hartman; Dr. John Shetler; Debbie Mosteller. The committee has been working on the following projects which will be part of our 1976 celebration.

- 1) Washington's Crossing at Parkers Ford: On September 19th, Washington's army crossed the Schuylkill river at Parkers Ford near Linfield, on a march which brought them to Trappe. During this march the General stopped briefly at the Evan's House to dispatch a letter to John Hancock. The Evan's House is now owned and restored by William Stepp. During the summers of 1976 and 1977, the Committee plans to reenact the crossing with a troop of some 100 men. The First Pennsylvania Regiment of Foot has consented to lead our march. Any Volunteers?.....
- 2) Orphan's Court: The Committee plans on convening a Session of Orphan's Court in the old Augustus Church to commemorate the first Montgomery County Orphan's Court which met in Trappe on December 1, 1784.
- 3) Restoration of the Old DeWees Tavern: The permanent reminder of the '76 celebration will be the restoration of the Tavern and the establishment of a permanent community museum and historical library. This is our largest undertaking and we'll be calling on everyone to help with this project.
- 4) The Committee is also involved in several other projects with the Jay Cee's, neighboring communities and others. Details of these projects will be following shortly.

EARLIEST NAME WAS PROVIDENCE

The early settlers who came to this area which is now Trappe were quite concerned about their future in this new land. Their concern was rooted in their religious background and is evidenced by the fact that for the little settlement of homes on this fertile farmland, they chose the name Providence.

It is significant that soon the more earthly side of the men of the area prevailed through the frequency of their trips to the Tavern operated by Schrack which was given the colloquial name of "The Trappe".

While the two townships in the area still bear the names of Upper Providence and Lower Providence, by the time of the American Revolution, the use of the name Providence for the settlement disappeared in favor of the name Trappe. Records indicate that, in those days, the community was referred to as "The Trappe".

WHY A HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER?

The understanding and recording of history is important for the future development of our Community and our Nation. A newsletter can serve to keep the Society Membership informed of the activities planned for the future and actively strengthen the purpose of the group. Historical notes and accounts of the community will be educational for the readers and at the same time provide a valuable record for coming generations.

It is the plan of your Board of Directors to publish a newsletter occasionally and include it with the established mailings during the year. With the coming Bicentennial of the Nation, there will be many events that will be publicized through the newsletter. We believe that it will greatly help us to strengthen our commitment to the ideals that were important to the founding of our community and our nation. We have a great story to tell from the past and a great hope for the future.

CANDLE DIPPER

The Historical Society recently acquired a rare piece which will become a part of our "Living Museum". The apparatus is a 1700's circular wooden rack used in the hand dipping of candles. The Bicentennial Committee plans to see that someone learns the old craft of dipping and demonstrates it at opportune times. This is what the term "Living Museum" denotes. The one thing missing is an old, large, copper or at least iron pot used to melt the wax. Does anyone have one they'll donate to put to use with this outfit?.....