The Corridor

Volume XXX, No. 2

Newsletter of the Old York Road Historical Society

Summer 2021

Summertime Greetings

Dear Members and Friends,

Once again, we are providing a summer issue of *The Corridor* comprised mainly of reprinted newspaper articles of varying historical interest. Even if you are not reading this on the beach or in the mountains, we hope you are able to take a brief respite from the current day and travel back in time with us. Although, as a few of these articles will attest, some things have not changed too much.

Many of you attended our full schedule of Zoom lectures during this past year, and we are pleased that you attended in record numbers. Nonetheless, we are looking forward to the possibility of launching our 2021-22 program-year with live presentations in the comfortable parlor of Abington Friends. All of our speakers agree that there is nothing more rewarding than the live interaction with our audience.

One ongoing summer project will enhance the experience at the archives. Several impressive pieces of artwork and maps have been completely restored and will be mounted in the hallways of our archives.

We look forward to many more exciting events and activities in the service of Old York Road history in the coming year. Thank you again for your continuing support of the Society.

The Board of Directors

From an undated clipping in OYRHS Scrapbook #7

How did Old York Road get its name? Hotchkin in his book "The York Road" simply says that "The Old York Road took its name from its leading from Philadelphia to New York, and from its antiquity...The Old York Road was laid out in A.D. 1711 from what is now Centre Bridge on the Delaware River to Philadelphia." It was apparently first called York Rd. but the term "Old York Road" was applied to the portion in Philadelphia as early as 1819. A history of Montgomery County says the "turnpike, the Old York road, as it was called, now entitled Cheltenham and Willow Grove Turnpike, started from 4th and Vine, Philadelphia, passing through Willow Grove and Hatboro to the Delaware, in the direction of New York (was) chartered 1803, finished 1804...It received its name from being one of the early routes of travel between the two great cities."

From the *Public Spirit* March 18, 1916

Ehrenpforts are said to be considering plans for the erection of a row of attractive stores on their York road front, opposite the trolley waiting room. This would make a fine improvement for the Grove. There are already several prospective tenants.

From *Pennsylvania Packet or General Advertiser* October 31, 1778

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC VENDUE

On Monday the secund of November next, agreeable to the last will of Thomas Wharton, Junior, deceased, TWITTINHAM FARM in Cheltenham township, Philadelphia county, about eleven miles from this city, containing 225 acres, bounded by lands of Christopher Ottinger, Jacob Funk and others, about 200 acres woodland, the rest cleared; about 12 acres meadow, and more may be made at a small expence, the greatest part of which is watered; the buildings are good, consisting of a large stone dwelling-house, with a lean too behind, a large piazza in the front, with a good vault under the fame, good stone barn, stables and chaisehouse, stone spring-house, with a smoke-house over the fame, a large garden boarded and paled round, with sundry sorts of the best fruit trees, also an apple orchard.

At the same time will be sold, sundry farming utensils. This sale to be held at the place at Ten o'clock in the morning, where attendance will be given by the Executors.

[Ed. Note: This estate is actually Twickenham Farm.]

From the *Public Spirit* December 18, 1915

A big white oak tree, a real veteran, estimated to be 347 years old, was recently cut down on the Miss Ella Matthews farm, Wrightstown, and will be used in the costly church which is being erected by the Swedenborgians at Bryn Athyn. The trunk of the tree measures five feet in diameter at one place and 26 feet from the ground measured four feet in diameter. In the top of the tree was a hollow in which bees had made

From the *Philadelphia Inquirer* May 15, 1899

25 pounds of honey.

ELKINS STATION OPENED AT OGONTZ PARK

The "Elkins Station," seven miles out, on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, opened yesterday for business. The new station will be the regular stopping place of the express trains on the new schedule, thereby doubling the through train service of the present time, and enabling dwellers in that locality to make the trip to the city in twenty minutes.

Elkins Station harmonizes with the general improvements and surroundings of Ogontz Park, and its erection marks a new era in stations of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. The company's plan is to abandon Ashbourne and Ogontz stations as regular stops, using the latter, in all probability, as a through station.

Adjoining "Elkins Station" is beautiful Ogontz Park, the most attractive suburban development ever attempted. Ogontz Park's present beauty only foreshadows its future loveliness, with stately homes along wide and beautiful avenues and with lawns, trees, and flowers in a state of perfection.

This property is being sold to the best citizens of Philadelphia, who intend to erect homes in the near future. Ogontz Park has all the conveniences of the city – gas, electric light, pure spring water, Waring's sewerage system, macadamized streets, granolithic sidewalks, fire hydrants, and, in fact, everything that could go to make a suburban site desirable. No more delightful Sunday outing than a visit to the park.

The operation is under the control of William T. B. Roberts, whose office is at 410 Land Title Building. Mr. Roberts has representatives on the property every day and Sunday, with conveyances to carry people over the site. Full information and prices on houses already built are sent to any address upon application.

From the *Times-Chronicle* February 6, 1947

Early History of Local Places

By Florence Ridpath

Little is known of the early history of Jenkintown but as we delve into the past we discover that it is first mentioned in print in the year 1759 when Nicholas Scull published a map of this section and called it "Jenkins Town."

Nicholas Scull was a surveyor and an Indian Interpreter of early Colonial times. He was an educated man, as shown by maps and surveys which he left.

He was probably an Englishman. He settled in Whitemarsh Township on the road running from Willow Grove to Gov. Keith's residence in Horsham. His death occurred in 1761, his wife Abigail having preceded him in 1753. They are buried in the family cemetery on Camp Hill, near the line of Whitemarsh and Upper Dublin. A copy of this map can be seen at the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

We know, however, that William Jenkins, of Temby, Pembrokeshire, Wales, came to America in 1682, in the ship "Submission." He was married in Wales in July 2, 1673, to Elizabeth Griffith, daughter of Lewis Griffith. He first located on the Welsh tract beyond the Schuylkill River, but preferring higher ground, he purchased in 1697 from one, John Barnes, a tract of 437 acres in Abington Township. The deed bears the date, June 17, 1698.

Among our very first settlers were John Barnes, a widower, and his daughter, Sarah Fuller, twice a widow. She, however, married for the third time and moved to Germantown.

Joseph Phipps, a Quaker, came on the ship "Welcome" with William Penn. He lived on the property known to us as the Fisher Estate, now the home of Lessing Rosenwald.

In the last will and testament of William Jenkins, which was proved August 16, 1712, there were three witnesses: Thomas Carley, Morris Morris and Daniel Thomas. No doubt these gentlemen were all members of Abington Meeting. We find Morris Morris listed in 1734, as a holder of 400 acres of land in Abington Township. He was probably the son of Evan Morris, who is stated to have settled at an early date about a mile East of the Meetinghouse. Daniel Thomas lived at Hatborough. He owned and ran a grist mill there and was one the founders of the Union Library of Hatboro. Morris Morris married a Gwyneth Thomas, no doubt a sister of Daniel.

5 KILLED, 2 HURT AS TRAINS CRASH

Four of Dead are Burned Beyond Recognition in Fire that Follows Wreck

Accident Occurs on Pennyslvania Railroad Two Miles from Willow Grove

Upper Moreland's Other Railroad

By James M.Rubillo

The history of Willow Grove is replete with references to the importance of the former Reading Railroad (now SEPTA) line from Philadelphia's Reading terminal. The line played a key role in the history and development of Eastern Montgomery County. However, there is another important, but almost invisible, rail line that passes through Upper Moreland Township.

The Trenton Cutoff (sometimes spelled Trenton Cut Off) is a 48-mile rail corridor that runs from Morrisville to a junction near Coatesville. The corridor was opened by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1892 to allow freight traffic to run between New York City and Harrisburg without passing through Philadelphia. As the Cutoff runs through Upper Moreland Township, it almost parallels the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Along its entire length this once busy line has only two grade crossings. One grade crossing, familiar to many local residents, is located on County Line Road. The other is located further east where the line crosses Bustleton Pike. Because our driving isn't interrupted by waiting for passing trains, this once busy connector is almost unknown to most people in the Willow Grove area. However, the Cutoff's anonymity does not mean it hasn't made its presence known.

The following was extracted from a story that appeared in the March 7, 1919 edition of The Philadelphia Inquirer. The five-line column headline read, "5 KILLED, 2 HURT AS TRAINS CRASH. Four of Dead Burned Beyond Recognition in Fire That Follows Wreck." The story relates that the deaths and serious injuries occurred in a rear-end collision near Willow Grove.

As dawn was approaching, a freight train had stopped to take on water at the Davisville Road bridge. As a following train approached, its engineer and firemen realized that a collision with the parked train was inevitable. The two of them leapt from the engine to safety. The resulting collision destroyed the lead train's caboose and fifteen boxcars were derailed.

All those who were killed were asleep in the caboose. Hot coals from the trailing train set the wooden caboose and the adjacent boxcars afire. The boxcars were carrying lumber. The Davisville bridge caught fire and much of the bridge was destroyed. Two men in the caboose were saved by oth-One victim was er trainmen. pinned in the wreckage by an iron bar that had fallen against his leg. The engineman and fireman of the second train arrived to free one injured man.

The cause of the accident was not known at the time of the news ar-

ticle. The first train's flagman was supposed to walk back 20 polelengths with a lantern to warn the second train of the parked train. It was not clear that he had walked the required distance before the second train appeared.

Fire companies responding to quench the blaze included Hatboro, Willow Grove, Glenside, Weldon, Edge Hill, McKinley, and La Mott. In total over one hundred volunteers responded.

A lack of nearby fire hydrants resulted in long hose lines, some more than a half-mile in length to get needed water from the Pennypack Creek. The fire was so intense that it was still ablaze seventeen hours after the collision.

In an ironic twist of history, this fatal accident foretold a more serious event less than two years later. Only a mile away, the Bryn Athyn train wreck killed 26 people on December 5, 1921.

Jim Rubillo is a retired college dean, professor and non-profit CEO. He is a well-travelled speaker having presented over 800 talks, at least one in every state and Canadian province. Jim has an intense interest in local history and serves on the Society Board of Directors as Vice President of Programs.

From the *Times-Chronicle* October 26, 1912

Herkness & Stetson, real estate brokers, representing the estate of Jay Cooke, have sold "Ogontz" one of the most magnificent country estates situated on Washington lane in the Chelten Hills.

"Ogontz" was the private estate for many years of Jay Cooke, the Civil War financier, and for the last thirty years has been the home of the Ogontz School for Young Ladies, one of the most prominent educational institutions in the United States. The estate contains over two hundred acres.

This property was first opened as a girls' school in September of 1883, the venture being the outgrowth of one of the oldest institutions for Philadelphia at that time known as the "Chestnut Street Seminary," founded in 1850. Miss Frances E. Bennett and Miss Sylvia Eastman were for many years the principals of the Ogontz School, and in recent years the principal has been Miss Abby A. Sutherland, who is the purchaser of the property. The consideration is five hundred thousand dollars.

Ogontz School will have occupied the Jay Cook estate thirty years this summer. The school has steadily increased in size and influence until at the present time it is one of the best-known and most influential schools for its class in the United States. Its graduates have Ogontz Associations in all of the large cities of the country. The alumni are planning this year for a thirtieth anniversary and the committee for this event is composed of prominent social leaders in different section of the country.

The purchase of this property by Miss Abby A. Sutherland, the Principal of the Ogontz School for Young Ladies, will be received with a great deal of satisfaction by the alumni of the school throughout the country as well as the millionaire neighbors in the vicinity who have considerable price in having Ogontz school as a neighbor.

Mr. Cooke always took a great personal interest in the Ogontz School up to the time of his death, which occurred a few years ago and this interest has been maintained by his children, who are Mrs. John M. Butler and Mrs. Charles D. Barney, who live nearby in the Ogontz section, Jay Cooke, Jr., of Philadelphia, and the Reverend Henry E. Cooke, of Cleveland, Ohio.

From the *Public Spirit* January 24, 1914

Foster, little son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Reeves, of Guernsey avenue, has been on the sick list.

From the *Public Spirit*April 13, 1901

Hatboro-Willow Grove Trolley Line To Be Built

Hatboro is to have a trolley line. After several years of effort to secure trolley connection with the outside world for Hatboro, success at last seems certain.

The line is to be a branch of the Willow Grove and Doylestown trolley line. Connection will be made with the present tracks on the Doylestown pike just below Continental Villa, about a mile north of Willow Grove. The branch will first cross a part of the Joshua Cope farm, then through the James Haas place and then across the Judge Yerkes farm to the York road at the southern limit of the borough of Hatboro. Thence the line will be laid in York street to its terminus in this borough which will probably be the County line. The road will be a trifle longer than if it came directly on the York road, but it will avoid the heavy grade and danger of Sampson's hill, so that the time the cars will make between Hatboro and Willow Grove will be about as swift as if the more direct route was used.

The right of way through the private property between the turnpikes has been entirely secured. An ordinance granting the necessary franchise for the borough was promptly passed by Borough Council at special meetings held in the town hall on Thursday evening. The members were unanimous for the new project.

The road is to be substantially built with flat rails on York street, Hatboro and heavy T rails where it is laid across the private right of way. Work of construction is to begin at once with the expectation of having the road in running order by the first of June. It is expected that the service between Hatboro and Willow Grove will be as good as that between Willow Grove and Doylestown. Large new cars will be used and every effort will be made to comfortably carry the large traffic to and from Willow Grove park. The fare is expected to be five cents each way.

From the *Jenkintown Journal* July 16, 1937

Beekeepers Meet on John B. Stetson Estate

The Philadelphia and Montgomery County Beekeepers' Association met last Thursday on the estate of John B. Stetson, Jr., in Elkins Park. A glorious afternoon of fun and frolic was enjoyed, but the high-spot of the day was the search for the queen hives. The group entertained themselves with a box luncheon.

From the *Philadelphia Inquirer* April 7, 1988

A ROYAL VISIT: BRYN ATHYN GETS EVERY-THING IN ORDER FOR QUEEN SILVIA

By Lou Perfidio

Next week, the eyes of Sweden will be on the tiny borough of Bryn Athyn.

Not to mention about 40 pairs of peepers making sure there are no international incidents when Sweden's Queen Silvia visits the eastern Montgomery County town at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Security for the queen's visit is in the hands of the Swedish Secret Service, the FBI, the Pennsylvania State Police and Bryn Athyn Police Chief Mason Adams' entire five-member department.

"The paper work for this goes up to the ceiling," Adams said at a Bryn Athyn Council meeting Monday night as he huddled with council members to discuss last-minute details.

Adams said the queen's exact route would be kept secret to help ensure her safety during her two-hour visit to the borough.

"We're just not going to say how she gets here, what she does when she gets here or anything else," the chief said.

The queen's visit is part of a 17-day tour in the United States, including two days in the Delaware Valley. She and her husband, King Carl XVI Gustaf, will visit the Swedish Museum in South Philadelphia. The queen will then take a helicopter ride to Bryn Athyn and rejoin her husband in Wilmington, Del. Next Thursday, they plan to make at least four stops in New Jersey—Bridgeton, Trenton, Princeton and Bayonne.

The queen will fly into town in a three-helicopter entourage. The helicopters will land on the campus of the Academy of the New Church, where the queen will unveil a plaque at the college's new Swedenborg Library.

"We did manage to get the circle in front of the library sodded," said the Rev. Dr. John Durban Odhner, a Swedenborgian scholar at the ANC. "It was all mud three weeks ago, but now it's nice and green. But a lot of the area around it has not been landscaped yet. But the queen knows it is still being worked on."

During her stay in Bryn Athyn, the queen will tour the library, the Bryn Athyn Cathedral and the Glencairn Museum. She will also receive a gift of a glassenclosed nature scene made by local artisan Jana Glebe, will hear the singing of children from the Bryn Athyn Church Elementary School and will take light refreshments at the Glencairn Museum.

"We're very excited and anticipating the visit of the queen next week," Mayor Hyland Johns said. "We got the confirmation of her visit a few months ago, and negotiations have been going since then."

Even with royalty coming to the small borough, its denizens are taking the visit in stride, Johns said.

"I don't think we're nervous," he said. "We have had good planning and good resources. We also have the cathedral, the new library and Glencairn, which will all make wonderful things to show the queen."

The visit will coincide with the ANC's year-round celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Emanuel Swedenborg, the spiritual founder of the Church of the New Jerusalem. Nearly all Bryn Athyn's 1,003 residents are members of the church.

From the *Willow Grove Guide* October 4, 1929

Local Youth Arrested After Ride in Borrowed Trolley

A local youth is being held by Abington police following a wild ride in a borrowed trolley car late Saturday night.

He is Frank Canning, twenty, of Highland avenue, Willow Grove.

According to police and trolley officials, the story runs thus. After the motorman of a Route 6 trolley car of the Glenside branch had left his car at the landing station on Easton road, Willow Grove, to go to the office, Canning took over the situation in a minute and became a motorman.

He entered the trolley car, closed the door, and was off on his initial ride as a trolley car motorman. Officials of the P.R.T. Company did not compliment Canning on the way he maneuvered the car, but did say he was very fortunate in not smashing it up or injuring someone in his dash.

With the controls wide open Canning covered a distance of several miles in record time before he was stopped by Officer Noll. Police say he passed traffic lights, did not decrease his speed at grade crossings and had many narrow escapes from his starting point until he was stopped.

Officer Noll, who was stationed at Easton road and Wharton avenue, Glenside, noticed the motorman of the trolley was not provided with a uniform and commandeering an automobile he brought the ride to an end near Waverly road.

He was taken to Abington police station awaiting the action of the transit company. Police say he was under the influence of liquor.

From the *Public Spirit*November 6, 1915

The Roberts' block building is nearing completion. Over the stores are three attractive apartments, with up-to-the-minute improvements, such as tiled bath-rooms with first grade fixtures, built-in china closets and built-in refrigerators, gas-kitchens, and general high-class finish throughout. For a small family, they are just the thing.

From *The Globe* August 24, 1961

Rockledge Scouts Back After Pocono Camp Trip

Rockledge Boy Scout Troop 475 returned home Sunday after a week's camping trip to the Poconos.

During the week many of the 18 scouts present passed the various tests necessary for advancement from tenderfoot to first class scout. There are 20 members in the troop which was formed about two years ago.

Scouts of 475 took part in competitive games at the reservation's field and carnival program attended by other scout troops from various areas in eastern Pennsylvania.

Two first class scouts Thomas Lynne and Dennis Stainislaw, were selected for the Order of the Arrow of the Delmont Lodge, a special honor group. These two boys made this group after going through requirements tests 24 hours prior to having the honor bestowed.

Highlight of the trip was an overnight hike to Little Falls. Scout "chefs" tried their hands at open hearth cuisine, including oatmealmaker Robert J. Far, Jr.

The troop was counseled by Robert Gilbert, Robert J. Fair, troop chairman, and David Stanislaw, on leave from military service.

Troop scoutmaster is Thomas Wynne. The troop meets every Wednesday evening at the Rockledge School.

From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*November 5, 1941

Old York Road Group Publishes Map

The Old York Road Historical Society has just published a pictorial map showing the location of historic mansions, taverns, battlefields and other landmarks in the section.

The map is the work of Horace Mather Lippincott, an authority on Philadelphia history, and Howard Kohlbrenner, prominent Philadelphia artist. It traces the course of Old York road from its beginning in Philadelphia to the Delaware River at New Hope.

From *Today's Sprit* December 2, 1976

Two Cable TV Firms Court U.M.

When cable TV comes to Upper Moreland, Commissioner's meetings could share the same bill with the best movie and a Flyer's home game. Instead of seven channels, families could be battling over up to 40 or more.

And eventually, if the dreams of cable television entrepreneurs come true, no one in Upper Moreland will ever have to leave the house to shop or be educated. Their favorite store or school classroom can come to them in living color on a 24-inch screen in the living room.

And it could happen as early as next year.

The township has a model cable television ordinance ready to go on the books. Two cable television firms told the commissioners and a sprinkling of residents Wednesday might that they're ready and willing to bring community television to Upper Moreland.

Cable Vision of Upper Moreland, a new firm that made a presentation to the township and the school district a year ago, and Comcast Corp. of Bala Cynwyd, an established firm which owns cable TV franchises in Abington and Cheltenham, made their pitches Wednesday night.

The major advantage of a cable TV franchise to the township is money. The township can receive up to three per cent of the gross subscription receipts from the franchise.

Aside from financial considerations, the community itself will have at least three channels for local broadcasts; one for education, one for local government and a third public access station.

The additional advantage of CableVision, said the firm's head, Joseph Valenti, is that it will be located in the township, paying occupation and real estate taxes and employing local residents.

The company is planning to have 15-20 stations operational immediately with a capacity for 40 channels. It will charge a \$10 installation fee, \$8 monthly and a \$5 charge for each additional home outlet.

On the other hand, Comcast, one of the top 25 cable firms in the nation, offers the kind of diversity a large, regional cable system can offer, said its President Ralph Roberts.

The firm plans to have 24 stations operational once the system is installed and will charge a \$25 installation fee and \$7.50 monthly.

From the *Jenkintown Journal* May 29, 1936

The Pickwell family is again under quarantine with scarlet fever.

From *The Globe* August 24, 1961

Abington Defeats Hatboro For Youth League Crown

The Abington Community Association sponsored Intermediate baseball team in the Greater Glenside Youth Club League won the Championship in a two game play-off series with Hatboro.

Abington compiled a record of 12 wins, 1 loss, and 3 ties during the regular season, losing on to Hatboro. This team was made up of many of the previous year's Junior players who went undefeated during both the regular season and the play-offs in 1960.

In the first playoff game at Hatboro field, Abington won by a score of 2 to 0. This game developed into quite a pitchers duel with Penecale of Abington pitching a one-hitter, and Bull of Hatboro pitching a four-hitter. One of Abington's hits was a home run by Frank Penecale, with one man on base in the first inning, scoring the only 2 runs of the game.

The second play-off game was played at the Abington field, where Abington won by a score of 7 to 5. Hatboro scored four of their runs in the first inning on two hits and four walks. Rainey pitched for Abington, and after a hectic first inning when the whole game allowing only three more hits and one run. Pitching for Hatboro was Ridge and Pilla, who allowed a total of 12 hits, and the big one being a homerun over the fence by Mike Aron.

From the *Public Spirit* December 18, 1915

A cow, which escaped from the Frazier dairy farm at Terwood and became mad, was finally shot on the Cairnwood farm.

From the *Glenside News* August 22, 1940

Abington Officer Uses Six-Shooter in Chase

A seven and three-tenth mile chase over suburban highways last Wednesday night ended near Southampton with a well-aimed shot from the pistol of Patrolman Whittock, of the Abington Department, that crashed through the culprit's legs breaking bones in both.

From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*June 2, 1903

ONE MAN FIGHTING RAILROAD COMPANY

A spite war is on between the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company and John B. Stevenson, a wealthy property owner of Abington, Montgomery county, over a planing mill which is about to be put in operation on the latter's property adjoining Noble Station and close by the picturesque grounds of the Rydal [Ed., Huntingdon Valley] Golf Club.

Because Mr. Stevenson was about to permit the resumption of work in an old planing mill directly back of their station at Noble, the railway company employees, it is claimed, tore up their siding leading into the mill yard, making it practically an impossibility, at least not a profitable venture, to operate the mill. In return for this act, Mr. Stevenson's workmen built a dam across an underground tunnel under the Noble Station grounds and having an outlet on Stevenson's property. The dam would have meant the serious flooding of the railroad property and would have done heavy damage had heavy rains come. There were motives actuating Mr. Stevenson, as, it is claimed, the railway company was draining other water into the tunnel than had been stipulated in the original agreement and was occasionally flooding his property.

Mr. Stevenson and a few of his men – four in all – came near clashing with 150 railroad laborers sent last Saturday to tear up his dambreast. As they approached the dam, Mr. Stevenson's men, armed with guns, ordered them to halt at their peril, as they had no business on his property. They halted quickly enough, and after hanging around a while departed. Ever since then either Mr. Stevenson or some of his men have been on guard at the place to see that the railroad men do not remove his dam. He was there himself last night until 10 o'clock, patrolling the tracks and looking sharply for intruders.

When he relinquished his post and went to his home at Abington he left the fort in charge of a constable, who had for company a musket and a lantern, in the old planing mill, whose operation is the bone of contention. The Rydal Golf Club and the railway company are said to be equally anxious to prevent the establishment of any business or manufacturing plant amid the picturesque surroundings of Noble, but Mr. Stevenson, who is president of the Bond and Stock Securities Company, of Chestnut street above Seventh, is equally determined to stand up for and maintain his rights to any end.

OLD YORK ROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

515 Meetinghouse Road Jenkintown, PA 19046

215 - 886 - 8590

Society's Website www.oyrhs.org

Email Address
OldYorkRoadHistory@gmail.com

Archives Research Hours

The archives is open by appointment only. Please email to schedule an appointment.

From *The Globe* August 24, 1961

Hatboro Lions Honor Bill Dino

Roars of the Lions of Hatboro reverberated at their last bi-monthly meeting, Aug. 8, at the Fireside Inn. They had something to roar about, a delicious smorgasbord – a La Dino style. The local club members honored William Dino, owner of The Fireside Inn, Warminster.

Past President Albert J. Moffa introduced the guest of honor and made the presentation. Dino, after thanking the Lions for the citation, briefly gave an autobiography of his life in the USA and the Greater Hatboro area, evoking laughter and interest with his speech.

From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*November 18, 1912

OLD CHELTENHAM MILLS ARE DAMAGED BY FIRE

OGONTZ, Pa. – Old York road volunteer firemen, for almost two hours early this morning, fought a fire which threatened to destroy the historic old Cheltenham Mills, located on the Old York Road at Ogontz, and forming part of the estate "The Ivy," owned by the late Joseph Bosler, Assistant United States Treasurer, which since the death of Mr. Bosler, has passed to control of the heirs.

The loss, largely the result of flooding the mill, will run between \$8000 and \$10,000. The mill property itself was saved by the work of the firemen, but the stock is almost entirely ruined.

From the *Willow Grove Guide* October 11, 1929

Still Explodes Firing Barn

A hootch factory went up in smoke early Saturday morning in Abington township – and police are still looking for the alleged owner.

An alarm was turned in to several Abington Township companies and the Willow Grove company shortly before six o-clock. When the firemen neared the scene of the blaze on Fitzwatertown Road below Old Welsh Road, flames were shooting high in the air from the burning building.

This was one of three buildings on the farm. The large stone farmhouse fronting on Fitzwatertown Road effectually hid from the view of any passersby, a stone outbuilding two stories in height. The large barn buildings were removed some distance.

Whether the fire was caused by overheating or by an explosion is not known. But one hundred barrels of material ready for distilling, and about 25 five-gallon cans of finished product furnished plenty of material for a real fire, and the entire property, together with a 100-gallon still was wrecked in less than an hour. Firemen saved the farmhouse.

Samuel Jacobs said he had rented the property "some time ago to a Philadelphian whom he did not know," and he further declared he did not know the building was being used for illegal purposes.

The alleged operator of the still was not in evidence at the time of the fire, or later. A woman and a child on the place either wouldn't or couldn't tell anything. A full-grown goat, browsing peacefully within fifteen yards of the blazing building was equally uncommunicative.

From the *Glenside News*April 11, 1940

Stamp Club to Meet

The Philatelic Society of Glenside which meets every second and fourth Friday at War Memorial Building, Keswick avenue and Waverly road, Glenside, will hold its next regular meeting Friday, April 12 at 8 P.M. The special feature of this meeting will be the showing of Air Mail and Coer Collections by Wilmer Rockett.

Regular Club Features include Exchange and Approval Department, New Issue Service for members (all new issues from Agencies: United States, Canada, Canal Zone, Newfoundland, Philippines) and auctions. Visitors are welcome.