Dėr Siebenstern, Good Jakes and the name Bachman

Reaching out through history

Coopersburg grew from an intersection of trails in the corner of what eventually became Upper Saucon Township. Being at the intersection, it was also a good stopping point for travelers.

The trails came from Allentown and north, from Bethlehem and east, and from Upper and Lower Milford and west. These areas had been settled by Europeans who came here to build homes and farms. They sold produce locally and to the Philadelphia region. The trip, up to 100 miles at the time, could take as long as multiple days one way. The trails were hard on the wagons and the horses, as well as the farmers. Over time, the need for resting the horses and repairing wagons was as necessary as rest for the farmers.

George Bachman emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1727,   acquiring more than 300 acres in the area about the year 1737. Some accounts show he purchased more land and, at one point, owned up to 1000 acres, the majority of Coopersburg today. Seeing an opportunity, he built a "rest stop" for travelers in Coopersburg between 1745 and 1750, **Der Siebenstern,** as the first hotel in the area. It housed the travelers and the horses. Eventually, his sons ran **Der Siebenstern** after George's death.

Der Siebenstern was one of the earliest businesses in Coopersburg. A "hotel," it was built from squared logs, lathed and plastered on the outside, the floors covered with large flat stones. At the time, the horses were also stabled under the same roof as the travelers. The horses provided some heat and the practice kept them safe from theft.

Joesph Frey bought **Der Siebenstern** in the early 1800's and over the years, added a distillery, a stone warehouse, a store and other buildings. Subsequently, multiple proprietors owned, expanded, rebuilt and still hosted customers. The older building was eventually torn down and a new hotel was built, the Eagle Hotel," which later was renamed the Barron House. Coopersburg Fire Company bought it in 1941.

The name Bachman has reached out through history and genealogy to link family members back to the hospitality industry.

George Bachman was born in Switzerland in 1686. He became one of a large number of people who emigrated from Switzerland and a number of other European countries at the time to settle in the region.

The family's descendants have been in the area for more than two hundred ninety years. It grew overtime and spread out as all families do but some have stayed , some have moved and some have moved back. Family members have had a great affection for the history here and the genealogy of the family throughout. Pam Gutshall Page, her sister Brenda Lee Gutshall Kotroutsos and brother, Rand Gutshall, are 9th generation descendants of George Bachman.

Their father, Frank Bachman Gutshall, instilled in them a love of the history and a great affection for the name Bachman. He was the genealogist of the family as well as the peacemaker