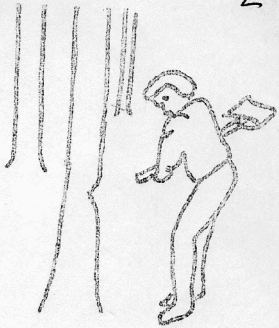


JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWS LETTER

Vol 1, No 1.

OCTOBER MEETING

Jan 1968

WITH ONLY A FEW CLARIFICATIONS, THE BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AUTHORED BY ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN MARCO DE ANGELO AND HIS COMMITTEE, WERE ADOPTED AT THE OCTOBER 25TH MEETING.

AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT OF THE HERITAGE OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH SETTLERS OF THE CANONSBURG AREA WAS DELIVERED BY IRK McCONNELL. ADOLPH ZEMAN TOLD OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ADVENTURES WITH SQUATTERS ON PROPERTY HE OWNED IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN'S LAMENT

SUBURBIA IS DEATH TO THE PAST! WANT PROOF? HERE GOES:

A LOG HOUSE HAS STOOD IN PETERS TOWNSHIP APPARENTLY SINCE 1806. THROUGH THE GENERATIONS LAYER AFTER LAYER OF SIDING WAS ADDED TO THE STRUCTURE UNTIL, BY 1967, FEW PEOPLE KNEW IT WAS A LOG HOUSE.

THEN THE PROPERTY WAS PURCHASED BY A DEVELOPER WHO PLANS TO ERECT AN APARTMENT BUILDING. THE LOG HOUSE WAS SCHEDULED TO BE BURNED.

TO THE RESCUE CAME A HANDFULL OF AMATEUR HISTORIANS WHO GOT PERMISSION TO BARE THE LOGS AND REMOVE THE HOUSE TO PETERSWOOD PARK FOR REERECTION AND PRESERVATION. THEY WORKED HARD THROUGH THE SUMMER UNTIL, ONCE AGAIN, THE STRONG OAK LOGS AND STONE FIREPLACES WERE EXPOSED TO VIEW.

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO SOME, BUT TO THE MAJORITY IT WAS JUST AN EYESORE. THE ARTISTRY IN THE FIT OF THE LOGS, THE PRIMITIVE TOOLS USED IN CONSTRUCTION, THE HANDMADE NAILS, THE TALE OF THE PAST WRITTEN IN SWEAT FOR ALL TO SEE, ESCAPED THE SUBURBANITES ALTOGETHER.

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BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF PUBLIC SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS, THE RELIC WILL NOT BE RAISED IN PETERSWOOD PARK. IT WILL BE REMOVED TO HOUSTON, PENNSYLVANIA AND RESTORED ON A FARM THERE.

THOSE WHO WORKED LOVINGLY ON THE HOUSE SEE IT GO WITH DEEP REGRET, BUT AT LEAST IT WILL BE SAVED AND, HOPEFULLY, BE IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE WHO APPRECIATES ITS MEANING.

THERE ARE STILL A FEW LOG HOUSES LEFT IN PETERS TOWNSHIP, MOST OF THEM OCCUPIED. BUT SOMEDAY THEY TOO WILL BE GONE, IF PEOPLE DON'T WAKE UP TO THEIR VALUE.

IF THE JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CAN YELL LOUDLY ENOUGH AND LONG ENOUGH, MAYBE WE CAN SAVE SOME OF THESE POOR SOULS FROM THEIR FRANTIC RUSH TOWARD A QUESTIONABLE FUTURE BY CAUSING THEM TO GLANCE BACKWARD AND EVALUATE THE PAST UPON WHICH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE ARE BUILT.

".....WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE." WM. SHAKESPEARE, THE TEMPEST.

JANUARY MEETING SET

ALBERT MILLER, CO-DEVELOPER OF MEADOWCROFT VILLAGE, AVELLA, WILL BE THE SPEAKER AT THE JANUARY 10TH MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE BOROUGH BUILDING AT 8 P. M. "MEADOWCROFT, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 19TH CENTURY VILLAGE" WILL BE THE TITLE OF HIS TALK.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

NO NEWSLETTER WORTH ITS SALT CAN BE KNOWN SIMPLY AS "THE NEWSLETTER". ESPECIALLY NOT THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

WE NEED IDEAS FOR A PROPER TITLE. LET'S DISCUSS IT AT THE JANUARY MEETING. THE TITLE SHOULD BE SOMETHING UNIQUE AND WITH A SPECIAL MEANING FOR OUR GROUP.

Y'ALL THINK!

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

WHAT ARE YOUR SPECIAL FIELDS OF INTEREST AS A HISTORIAN? WHAT TYPE OF FIELD WORK AND/OR RESEARCH HAVE YOU DONE?

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THE NEWSLETTER WELCOMES ANY CONTRIBUTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TELLING OF YOUR EXPERIENCES AND DISCOVERIES. THIS IS ONE METHOD BY WHICH WE CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.

MAIL OR TELEPHONE YOUR IDEAS TO CHARLOTTE LAMB DIN,
131 THOMAS ROAD, McMURRAY, PENNA., 941-8844, 941-9771, OR ANY
MEMBER OF THE PUBLICATIONS AND NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE.