

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CAMP HILL

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of Camp Hill

Volume XX, Number 4

October 2023



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717-737-8522

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**Vacant**

www.historicalsocietyofcamp  
hill.org (It hasn't been updat-  
ed since 2020 because we  
don't have a webmaster.)

### Email address:

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camphill@aol.com



Historical  
Society of  
Camp Hill

## The President's Message



Greetings,

The following is from the book, *Camp Hill A History*, by Robert Grant Crist Chapter 1, page 1:

**... a Tract of Land between Conogogwalnet & the Shawna (Yellow Breeches) Creeks five or six miles back from the River ... That These Woods may remain free to ye Indians for Planting and Hunting.**

The letter promised "to Dispossess All Persons Settled on that side of the River" but did not specify where such squatters were known to be.

This tract of land is known as the Manor of Lowther originating from the Manor of Lowther, Cumberland County, England, from Bob Crist's book Preface Page V.

I ask you how many of us live in the Manor of Lowther? Camp Hill Borough is about dead center in the Manor.

-Wayne Yost

Hope to see you at the General Meeting on November 2nd

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## Welcome and Thanks to our new and renewing members for 2023!

### Welcome New Members:

Deanna Davis and Family, Jim Schmick, Wm. H. Walters, Guy and Karen Edmiston.

### Thanks to Supporting Members:

John & Loma Slike, Wm H Walters

Membership Renewal Form is on Page 7.

Any membership that is renewed now will be a 2024 membership. If you have already renewed for 2024, give it to a friend. If you missed renewing for 2023, just send us your 2024 membership.

You can also receive the newsletter via email. It will be in color.

Your address label will tell you the last year that your dues were paid. If the date is **red**, the dues are not current for 2024.

Please let me know if anyone has moved or has passed away. If they have moved and you know their address, please let me know and I will send their newsletters to the new address. If I just get a newsletter returned from the post office, often I can't send them a new one so, I just delete them from our roll of members.

I am always in need of articles for the newsletter. I am not much of a researcher or writer which is needed for a history loving organization such as ours.

If you have anything that you would like to share, please send it to me either by email: [patriciaeby@verizon.net](mailto:patriciaeby@verizon.net) or by mail 19 N 27th St, Camp Hill 17011.

Thanking you in advance for any assistance you can give.  
-Pat Eby

## American Flags for Sale

The Historical Society of Camp Hill sells American flags that we obtain from the American Legion. They sell for \$25.00. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Marilyn Swartz at 717-736-9547.

## Need a Gift Idea?

Purchase a membership for a friend, neighbor or a relative. It would be great for a former classmate or relative that lives out of the area.

A year's membership is only \$10. What a great gift at such a tiny price. Order it today.

## Sincere Sympathy

We send our sympathy to the families of our members that have passed away. May they rest in peace.

Gilbert Parthemore 3-14-2023.

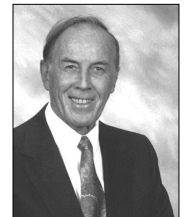


Barbara McGeary  
7-28-2023



Bill Auchenbach, class of 1952  
10-26-2022 Life Member

Paul "Chubb" Hawbecker 8-25-2023



Mark Your **2024** Calendars  
for next year's General Meetings.

March 7th - Soup & Sandwiches  
May 9th - Soup & Sandwiches  
August 1st - Picnic  
November 7th - Pot-Luck

The Historical Society of Camp Hill Newsletter is produced several times a year. Articles or stories to be submitted for consideration should be either given to Pat Eby at Board or General Meetings or forwarded to Pat Eby, 19 N. 27th Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011, 717-379-8945, or [patriciaeby@verizon.net](mailto:patriciaeby@verizon.net). Suggestions and articles are always welcome. The newsletter is printed by Johnson Imaging of Camp Hill.

HSCH is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

**Activities of other Local Historical Societies**

Please check their websites for details.

**Mechanicsburg Museum Association**

www.mechanicsburgmuseum.org 717-697-6088  
 2 W. Strawberry Alley, Mechanicsburg PA  
 Nov 3 & 4 - Christmas Yard Sale 9-3 pm  
 Nov 11 thru Dec - An ABC Christmas, Wed - Sat 12-3 - free  
 Dec 1 & 2 - Christmas Candlelight Walking Tour - fee and pre-reg  
 Dec 9 - Storytime and crafts with Mrs. Santa 12-3 pm

**Northern York County Historical & Preservation Society**

www.northernryorkhistorical.org 717-502-1440  
 35 Greenbriar Lane, Dillsburg PA 17019  
 Nov 25 - Dillsburg Farmers Market, from 8 am to 12 noon  
 Dec 8 & 9 - Christmas Market at the Historic Dill's Tavern on Fri  
 from 4 to 9 pm, Sat from 9 am to 4 pm

**Historic Harrisburg (50th Anniversary)**

www.historicharrisburg.com 717-233-4646  
 Historic Harrisburg Resource Center  
 1230 N 3rd St, Harrisburg PA  
 info@historicharrisburg.com  
 Dec 10 - Historic Harrisburg House Tour, from 1 to 6pm, fee

**Adams County Historical Society**

www.achs-pa.org 717-334-4723  
 368 Spring Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
 All programs are at the Museum, 625 Biglerville Rd.  
 Nov 15-17 - Several different lectures on Lincoln at Gettysburg.  
 This organization has programs almost every Saturday and  
 Sunday with some on Thursday evenings. Please check their  
 website for times.

**West Shore Historical Society**

westshorehistoricalsociety.org  
 939 Kranzel Dr, Camp Hill PA 17011-0717  
 No events listed

**Shiremanstown Historical Society**

www.s-townhs.org  
 4 Walnut Street, Shiremanstown, PA 17011  
 j\_runk@comcast.net  
 No events listed

**Cumberland County Historical Society**

www.historicalsociety.com 717-249-7610  
 21 N Pitt St, Carlisle PA  
 Reserve online for all activities and more information  
 Dec 3 - Carlisle Historic Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour, 11:30 -  
 6:30 pm, fee

**Shippensburg Historical Society**

www.shippensburghhistoricalsociety.org 717-532-6727  
 52 W King St, Shippensburg PA 17257  
 Dec 1 & 2 - Franklin County Visitors Center, Fri from 4 to 8 pm,  
 Sat from 9 to 12, free  
 Dec 9 - Stewart House Christmas. From 11 to 3, free

**Historical Society of East Pennsboro**

www.EPHistory.org 717-732-5801  
 PO Box 195, 410 Cherry Street, Enola, PA 17025  
 No events listed.

**Membership with Cumberland County Historical Society**

In order to receive a reciprocal membership with Cumberland County Historical Society, go to this website:

www.historicalsociety.com/product/cumberland-county-reciprocal-membership/

Why join? \$20 Membership (normally \$45).

A Reciprocal Membership includes all the basic benefits of a CH HS membership.  
 Use of Archives & Library including use of Ancestry.com;  
 Copy of CCHS' program calendars, annual report and program mailings;  
 Copy of the Cumberland County History Journal;  
 10% off most gift shop purchases with 20% discount in Museum Shop on the second Saturday of each month;  
 Members only pricing on most events;  
 Discounts on walking and bus tours;  
 CCHS car decal;  
 Monthly 3-blasts;  
 Invitations to member only events, including receptions and behind the scenes tours;  
 Discounts for History Workshop labs, home-school programs and summer camps.

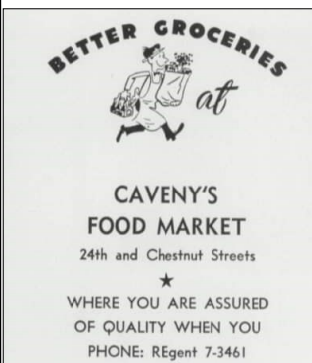
Quite a value!

**Society Updates**

Pennsylvania Historical Marker - There is a slight update. Mr. Douglas from State Representative Patty Kim's office has informed us that all requests are on hold, but they do have our request.

Renaming of the Camp Hill Post Office. Senator John Fetterman's office requested more information from us on our request to rename the post office to John Charles "Chuck" Traub Post Office. So they are acknowledging our request.

Biggest news is that Andrew Ruch is taking on our request to work on our website. We have not had a webmaster since 2019. Therefore it has not been updated. We look forward to getting a new website.



Remember this place?

A Complete  
**FOOD SERVICE MARKET**  
 Including  
 CHOICE WESTERN MEATS CUT FRESH  
 WHEN SOLD  
**Free Delivery Daily**  
 At 2 P. M.  
**CAVENY'S FOOD MARKET**  
 24th & Chestnut Sts., Camp Hill, Pa.  
 Phone: REgent 7-3461

**Camp Hill High School's - Barefoot in the Park  
Fall of 1980**



Cast members left to right: Jim Mitchell, Parul Combitsis, Kim Howell, Sharon Shillenn, Karl Etshied, Mike Moulton.

The production was presented November 14th and 15th in the auditorium. A play about the problems confronted by a pair of newlyweds who find living the first two weeks together less than marital bliss. Aggravated by weird neighbors, six flights of stairs and a doting mother-in-law, the young couple decide to seek a divorce. The romantic leads are Karl Etshied and Kim Howell. Sharon Shillenn is the doting mother-in-law and the weirdest of neighbors is Paul Combitsis. Reserved tickets were \$2.50, general admission was \$1.50.

**Camp Hill's Enrollment Data from Fall 1880**

K-6th grades had 516; 7th-12th grades had 615. The graduating class was expected to be 88. The trend in enrolment was slowing going down.

**?Did You Know?**

Camp Hill High School Band won first place in Division II in the Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade winning \$400 and trophies. The Junior High Band won third place in the Dillsburg Halloween Parade and won trophies.

Eileen Knot was named a semi-finalist in the 1980 National Merit Scholarship Contest. Four students earned commendations; Lynn Dietz, Douglas Eby, Robert McIntyre, and Kim Takita.

CH Girls Tennis Team won the Blue Mountain League Title with a 12 win and no loss record. CH Girls Cross Country Team won the Blue Mountain League Championship. Kathy Mayes finished first in the All-League Meet and qualified for the district meet.

Homecoming Queen of 1980 was Sandy Edwards. Her court included: Kelly Hall, Regina Kelly, Lisa Long, Debbie Wolfinger, Patricia Klee, and Beth Faerber.

All of the above information was taken from Vol. 11, No. 4 of the 1980-1981 Preview Report published by Camp Hill School District.

**Activities of the Historical Society**



Wayne was once again out on the speaking circuit. He recently made two presentations about Camp Hill history: one at the Fredricksen Library and one to the Camp Hill Lions Club.



In August, we held our last general meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church. Pastor Jack Horner gave the history of the church. They are celebrating their 125th anniversary. There were about 120 people show up for the picnic supper and presentation. We even got a few new members. We also heard Louis Lynch play tunes before dinner on our lovely Eugenie Pauly Wurlitzer Harp. It was a lovely evening.

Also in August, we participated in National Night Out sponsored by the Camp Hill Police Department. We also picked up a couple of new members. We displayed the old mail truck thanks to Sam Miller.

He had requested one of the banners that were hung along the streets in the borough, so we presented it to him that night.

It is always a fun night. I even found a dog dressed in a fire man's costume.



Local venters provide free food. In fact a lot of it is available to enjoy. I didn't get a picture of the "Dunk a Cop" activity.

Next year check it out. It is usually the first Tuesday of August.

## Earliest Houses of Camp Hill

By  
Kenneth V. Lohr, Jr.

By the time of the Declaration of Independence in 1766, all of the land from the Susquehanna River to St. Johns Road and between the Yellow Breeches and the Conodoquinet creeks was known as Louther Manor. By 1797, it was divided into 33 tracts or farms.

Market Street was known as the Great Road, which was "The Way West" from Philadelphia to the frontier. It crossed the river at Harris Ferry, now Harrisburg. The ferry started operations in 1734.

The Susquehannock Indians were trading here in 1616. There was an Indian camp on the hillside of N. 25th Street. In 1930 a pear shaped pit filled with many bushels of corn was found in the front yard of what is now 399 N. 25th Street, the house built by Eufryn Jones and still lived in by Mrs. Jones. A smaller cache has been preserved in the wall of the basement of 334 N. 25th Street, discovered when the house was built. It is now owned by Nancy and Peter Bazylewicz.

By 1735 the first settlers were arriving, mostly Scotch-Irish. They and the remaining Indians, since 1698, the Shawnee, got along peaceably, the children often playing and hunting together. There are no surviving structures from this period.

The oldest house in Camp Hill was built in 1772 and is now the Myer Funeral Home at 19th & Market. It originally faced east. It was built by Robert Whitehill, who was a member of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and was closely associated with the drafting of the Bill of Rights.

The second oldest house in the borough was built in 1779 and still stands at 2324 Market Street, owned by the son of Dr. S. O. Curry. It was a well known 21 room tavern, serving the needs of the wagon trains heading west. It continued as such until 1834 when it was converted to a private residence. It was so located to be close to the spring which flows through Willow Park between 24th and 25th Streets. Actually it started out as the Tobias Hendricks Hostelry and Tavern mentioned in diaries as early as 1746.

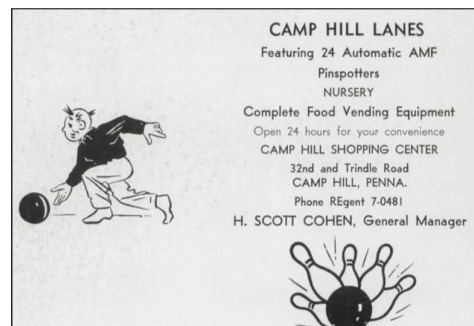
The third oldest house in the borough is at the corner of 26 and Market completed in 1798 by "Squire Bowman". It was originally 15 by 12 feet and had two windows. This the portion closest to 26th Street. It has been extensively expanded and changed since, most recently by the Elmer Ritter family in the fifties. It is now owned by Charlene Sutliff.

The last of the earliest homes was also a tavern, erected by Abraham Oyster in 1814, at the juncture of Market Street and Trindle Road. It was last owned by the Hempt family and was torn down to make way for the Giant Food Market. This area was the site of the high water mark of the Confederate Army when an engagement took place on June 29th 1863. It was broken off when General Ewell was ordered to stop the advance and report to Gettysburg,

These four structures became the anchors about which the rest of Camp Hill would grow, although slowly. It became a borough in 1884 but the 1900 Census shows only 360 residents. Real growth did not start until the arrival of the trolley car in 1902. the 1910 Census shows 875 residents.

Note: This article was written some years ago. Homes are probably not still owned by those mentioned.

## Do you remember the bowling alley?



## Remembering Barbara McGeary

We want to say a few more things about Barbara. She was born June 26, 1932 and passed July 28, 2023.

She and her husband were very active members of the HSCH. She was president in 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2013. She was Vice President in 2010. She was such a dynamic force in the society that she was made an Emeritus Member, the only one so far.

If you read her obituary, you were left feeling exhausted by her educational and community accomplishments, along with being a wife and mother. How did she do so many things?

Some examples were that she founded the Riverside Center for the Arts in the 1970's which was later named Harrisburg Arts Magnet School, created the Museum Star Program at PA State Museum. She was a judge for the Scholastic Arts Awards in the Harrisburg area. Not only was she our president but also Tuscarora Forest Property Owners Association of Perry County. She also volunteered at the Harrisburg Symphony and the Susquehanna Art Museum.

She received many honors including, "Women Who Work" Community Award by the Patriot News, "Distinguished Service to the Arts", "Outstanding Leadership Award" by Cosmopolitan International Club of Harrisburg, "Champions of the Arts" from CASA, "Outstanding Service to Cumberland County" where she created a mural of the county with historical points of interest. (They reproduced it into a puzzle to sell in their gift shop.) During the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Harrisburg, she was recognized as one of Harrisburg's "Living Legacy" honorees.

Besides being a genuinely nice person, she devoted her life to the arts and enriching her community. We were fortunate to have her as part of our organization.



## Where are our Banners?

Have you missed the history-related banners that hung on the utility poles along Market Street for many summers?

Unfortunately, Camp Hill Borough Council put their annual appearance on hold waiting approval of a proposed streetscape. Meanwhile these banners are stored in a safe place until a decision is reached. Neighboring towns have banners of various designs hanging on utility poles.

Camp Hill's banners are unique because they are sponsored by graduating high school classes through the years. Each one includes a graphic of a house, building or event related to Camp Hill history. Doris Gulden Fitting and Marilyn Stoner Swartz managed this project.

Maybe the Camp Hill Borough Council would like to hear from the community about returning the banners to the poles as part of the streetscape?

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## A trip down Market Street in the 50's

This tour of Camp Hill, has been perked through the memories of about 60 years. Like coffee, they may not be as strong as you, the

There will be omissions and probably some mistakes that will be noticed by the collective eyes, who read and remember.

The tour rambles a bit, as do I, being easily distracted by what, at that time, was important to me. Regretfully, I have neither the memory nor the ambition to offer something about everyone. For whatever shortcomings you may find, I apologize and accept critiques from you who may have a vivid memory of a place or person I have lost on the dusty shelves of an old brain. Nostalgia is often imperfect, but nonetheless, wonderful.

Dick Stender, March 2006  
CHHS Class of 1955

### "Our Town"

In other chapters of this nostalgic journey, I have talked about the people and events that played such a big part in our "fifties" experience in the wonderful borough of Camp Hill. While taxing what is left of my aging and jellied brain, I would like to take you on a trip back to those days, so join me in revisiting many of the places that are all but lost in this current, crazy world. I am very much aware of my age and as I tell my sons and grandkids, I have a rearview mirror that is full of what was, albeit foggy at times, while the road ahead is shortened in terms of time and possibilities.

Let's start at the beginning of Camp Hill — 15th Street, where we adjoined the borough of Lemoyne, an erstwhile sports rival. Here, behind the Gessner Chrysler dealership, was Brandts Beer Distributor. Now you must remember that there were no bars, no places that served any kind of alcohol, in the entire town. This was the era of the Pennsylvania Blue Laws, but in Camp Hill, it may as well have been prohibition. But- we had Brandts.

There (was never) a young man who lived in Camp Hill during that time that didn't try, through some ploy or ruse, to buy beer from Brandts. The gnarled old man that ran the place had heard them all and foiled every attempt to fool him. Even Jim "Ape" Miller could not do it. Jim, God rest his soul, got into puberty about the age of six. He looked much older than the rest of us and could fool the guys in Silver Springs or Lemoyne, but never Mr. Brandt. We ranged far and wide in pursuit of beer but gave

Brandt a wide berth. Fifteenth Street was also the home of Zoe Ann Mood and I think the Arms family. I always felt sorry for those kids who had to walk to school, particularly in the winter. I can tell you that as girlfriends, residents of this street were up against it. I walked Zoe Ann home from a dance, in seventh grade, in November and did not thaw till the following June!

Moving up Market Street to South 18th Street, we are at the next memorable place-, Otty's Mobil Station. My friend Steve spent much of his youth as Otty's employee. There was another guy named Jerry Hummelbaugh, who also worked there. Nearly every one of the people I knew bought their gas from Otty. Steve and Jerry, with their neat and perpetually clean cars, attracted Bruce Larson and the "car set" to the station, where they sat around and talked, using terms like Edelbrock, Iskenderian and Holly. Later, Steve bought the station and began his capitalistic ways.

Next door to Otty's place, was Grimms Electronics. I never did understand what they made or operated, but they were there forever. Just across from 19th Street, there was an old and quite large house that was going to ruin. In about our sixth grade, Charlie Myers bought it and turned it into a funeral home, Camp Hill's first and only such establishment. It is still there and remains in the Myers family to this day. Charlie was a very nice man and for years, had a monopolistic hold on Camp Hill's funeral business. On the other hand, I have never met a mortician who was not exceedingly nice! Charlie supported the school, the athletic programs and could always be counted on to buy a full-page ad in the yearbook.

About a block north on 19th Street, stood the venerable Lincoln Elementary School. In my part of town, we attended Schaeffer, mentioned many times in this collection. That was the extent of elementary schools in Camp Hill. We had neither middle schools nor even a stand-alone junior high. Lincoln School was an unknown to most of us at Schaeffer. On those rare occasions, when all elementary students trekked, in long columns, down to the high school auditorium, the Lincoln kids sat on one side of the room and we on the other. Usually it was for some show, the annual Dental Honor Roll hoopla or to hear Mr. Gamber taunt us with bicycles and gifts if we sold his Curtis Publishing magazines. I'm straying from the tour, but as these thoughts come about, I am compelled to share them.

Conveniently next to Myers Funeral Home, was the Trinity Lutheran Church. There hails a pastor, who was drop-dead, movie star handsome. Reverend Rhineberger was his name, and he became a frequent speaker at school events and always attended the football and basketball games. I remember him best as a staunch supporter of Troop 51 of the Boy Scouts, a very successful and active organization. They used to collect scrap newspaper and it was not unusual to see Reverend Rhineberger helping to cram bundles of paper in that old troop bus.

About two blocks further and it was Polk's Drug Store. A Mr. Tom Polk, who had some strange mannerisms when he greeted customers, owned it. He would give you a big toothy grin and then start to move his hands; as though he was washing them. He was not a pharmacist and sold only patent medicines and sundaes. Ahh! Those sundaes were to die for - at least in my juvenile mind. On Sundays, we would go to the Camp Hill Methodist Church and my grandfather would give us each a quarter for the offering collection. I can tell you that there were many Sundays that old Tom Polk got most of that money, when I would sneak out of Sunday School for one of his butterscotch delicacies. Polk's never achieved the special status that we kids reserved for Doc Fickel, but he managed to stay in business for most of my years in Camp Hill.

*This interesting tale will continue in the next edition of the newsletter. It is being reprinted with permission from Mr. Stender.*

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CAMP HILL

2145 Walnut Street, Camp Hill PA 17011  
You can also mail your membership form and check to  
19 N 27th St, Camp Hill PA 17011



## Membership Application / Renewal for 2024

A 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

- Member \$10
- Family \$20
- Additional Gift \_\_\_\_\_
- I'd like to help at an event or with a project.
- Supporting \$50
- Life Member \$500

*Please make checks payable to HSCH.*

*Happy 20th Anniversary HSCH!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Clearly

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive the Newsletter by email? Yes No  
Did you graduate from Camp Hill High School? If so, what year? \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support.*



## November 2, 2023 Pot Luck Meeting 6:30

### General Meeting is in Prosser Hall

We will meet to eat, share some fellowship and learn about Civil War history along the Great Road. Jim Schmick will amaze us with the history of our area. He is a local historian who owns a bookstore at 10 S. Market Street in Mechanicsburg called Civil War and More. [www.civilwarandmore.com](http://www.civilwarandmore.com).

We are very fortunate to have him speak at our meeting.

Bring a neighbor and enjoy the company of your "historic" friends with a meal and program.

All table settings and water will be provided.

**Please bring a covered dish for all to enjoy.**

The event is free and open to the public.

No registration is required.

If you do not wish to eat with us,

The program will start about 7.

You can just come for that.

Parking is free.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CAMP HILL  
c/o 2145 Walnut Street  
Camp Hill PA 17011

A 501(c)(3) organization

**Dated Materials**

**Newsletter**



**Volume XX Number 4  
October 2023**