



Knapp Notes

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

MTHS is a grass-roots organization. Our primary funding sources are membership dues and donations. We rely on YOU to help us continue to do the important work of preserving local history for future generations. Please do your part and renew today, or join now for 2019—either online at www.knappfarm.org or with the enclosed form.

Thank you!



When Women Won the Vote

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted American women the right to vote. When it was finally passed, on August 18, 1920, it ended almost a century of protest. Many people today don't realize how long and hard women advocated to be included in the cornerstone of our democratic process. But to say that women were "given" the right to vote truly understates the struggle. They fought for it.

According to History.com, "The campaign for women's suffrage was a small but growing movement in the decades before the Civil War. Starting in the 1820s, various reform groups proliferated across the U.S.—temperance leagues, the abolitionist movement, religious groups—and in a number of these, women played a prominent role."

The movement coalesced at the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Delegates to the

convention produced a "Declaration of Sentiments" modeled after the Declaration of Independence which stated: "We hold these truths to be

self-evident: that all men *and women* are created equal..." Following the convention, the demand for the vote became a centerpiece of the women's rights movement.

But with the onset of the Civil War, the suffrage movement lost momentum, as many women turned their attention to assisting in efforts related to the war. Then afterwards, the movement became divided over the issue of voting rights for

black men. Stanton and some other suffrage leaders objected to the proposed 15th Amendment as written because it would give black men the right to vote, but failed to extend the same privilege to American women of any skin color.



Mary Knapp, age 104, took full advantage of women's suffrage which was granted when she was 94. Here she is waiting to vote c. 1930 at the Walker Inn which stood at 5 Points in Montgomeryville. Mary was the daughter of Abraham and Mary Knapp who moved to the farm in 1935; she was the aunt of Florence, Henrietta and Howard Knapp. Mary died in 1934, age 108.



Annual Holiday Open House at Knapp Farm

Sunday, December 2, 2018
1:00-4:00pm

101 Montclair Drive,
North Wales, Pa 19454
Enter from Dekalb Pike
(Use light at Cheswick and make first left.)

Tours,
Refreshments
& Holiday Cheer

Scouts to the Rescue...Again



MTHS 2018-20 Board of Directors

Lisa Knapp Siegel, President

David Levin, DO, VP

Joan Hurd, Treasurer

Richard Roller, Secretary

Ginny Bailey

Debbie Cummins

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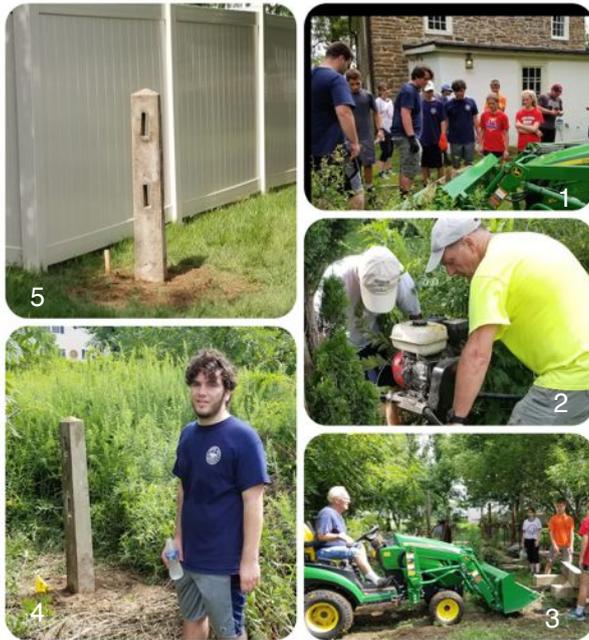
Montgomery Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 678

Montgomeryville PA, 18936

Voice Mailbox: 215-361-1801

info@knappfarm.org



PHOTOS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT
1) Team assembled for instructions. 2) Digging the holes required some serious muscle. 3) Former MTHS President Rich Roller drove the tractor to move the posts to the prepared sites. Scouts and friends completed the installation. 4) Thank you to Scout team leader Jake Pepe for choosing Knapp Farm as your Eagle project. 5) Witness Post installed.

Once again, we take our hats off to the Boy Scouts from Troop 547 at Mary Mother of the Redeemer RCC who have been involved in so many vital projects at Knapp Farm including rehabbing both the spring house and the milk shed. This time, prospective Eagle Scout Jake Pepe assembled a team of scouts, friends and troop leaders to help us install Witness Posts (i.e. boundary markers) around our sizeable property.

This was an extremely important task because our property abuts the backyards of a number of homes in the Knapp Farm development, and it was necessary that we clearly outline property boundaries for liability issues.

The concrete posts that were used were salvaged from the old 309 Driving Range now the site of Montgomeryville Acura. The troop worked diligently throughout the day to place 13 of 14 posts (there was a fence blocking one which will have to be relocated back from our property line.)

LOCAL TREASURE

MTHS is fortunate to have Ginny Bailey as a dedicated board member. Ginny, who grew up in Montgomery Township is a treasure trove of information and memories about the township and the entire North Penn region. One of the reasons she knows so much is that she was an eye witness to the challenges of a growing township thanks to her close proximity to one of the township's most important officials: her dad, Bruce Bailey, Chief of Police from 1955 to 1982.

During his 27-year tenure, Chief Bailey saw a whirlwind of change as Montgomery changed from a sleepy rural township dotted with farms to a thriving suburban community filled with commercial and residential development. According to an interview published in the May 26, 1993 edition of the Montgomeryville Spirit, in the early days, one of Chief Bailey's most challenging tasks was trying to enforce the



"Blue Laws" which restricted commercial operations on Sundays. However, his quiet community did not shield him from life threatening danger. In 1956 he was almost shot while attempting to serve a warrant for a suspect in an armed robbery at the 309 Drive-In Theater (located at the corner of Rt. 309 and Welsh Road.).

According to Ginny, the hallmark of her dad's tenure as Police Chief was his strong connection to community. Here's one of her favorite memories:

"It's hard to believe it's been 25 years since my Dad passed away. He was the Chief of Police and thought it was his job to help people on duty and off. He looked for the good in people and taught us that everyone deserved to be treated with dignity and respect.

One summer, in the late 60s, I was a waitress at a diner/truck stop and my Dad was in with another police officer from a neighboring township. While they were having

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