



Knapp Notes

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For Your Summer Listening Pleasure: Great Podcasts for History Buffs

by Susan Gordon, Knapp Notes Editor

Oh no, you're stuck in traffic on the AC Expressway. Or you're mowing the lawn and walking in circles. Or you tried to listen to the evening news while you make dinner, but can't stand one more story about partisan wrangling.

It's times like these that cry out for something to ease your troubled mind: something both enriching and entertaining. What to do? Grab your smartphone, tablet or computer and spend the next 30 or 60 minutes listening to some of the most interesting and dynamic historians and educators working today. Welcome to the awesome world of podcasts: a limitless ocean of knowledge and discussion, presented in the most entertaining and easily digestible way.

For those unfamiliar with podcasts, you only need to know 3 things:

1. You can either stream them (which means you have to be connected to a reliable internet cable or WiFi signal) or you can download them and listen to them later without the need to connect to anything.

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-In Memoriam-

Ruth Knapp Oberholtzer

The Board and members of the Montgomery Township Historical Society would like to pause and celebrate the life of Ruth E. Oberholtzer (nee Knapp), one of our society's most loyal and generous supporters, who passed away on March 21, 2017 at the age of 98.

Ruth was born on May 19, 1918 in Montgomery Square, PA, one of the three original villages in Montgomery Township. Her parents were Charles Howard Knapp and Jennie Caracher Kulp. Ruth and her late husband, Ross E. Oberholtzer had 2 sons, John E. Oberholtzer and the late Ross E., Jr. She is survived by two granddaughters and many nephews and nieces including current MTHS president, Lisa Knapp Siegel. Ruth was preceded in death by her brother, Charles Howard (Bud) Knapp, Jr.

Ruth graduated from Lansdale High School in 1936. She then studied to be a Medical Records Librarian at Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia, and pursued her career at Germantown Hospital from 1940 through the 1970s. During this time she was one of

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Special thanks to everyone who attended our springtime fundraiser, **Treasures on the Vine**, at Stone and Key Cellars in Montgomeryville. More than 50 guests enjoyed a special wine tasting and the opportunity to have their personal treasures appraised by auctioneers Cindy Stephenson and Tom Wakely from Stephenson's Auctioneers, Southampton, PA. All proceeds from the event will be used for the ongoing restoration of the Knapp Farm historic site.



Podcasts



2. Most podcasts are FREE - isn't that wonderful?

3. The easiest way to get started is to just Google "history podcasts" and you will be directed to more possibilities than you could ever possibly tune in to.

The selections below are my personal favorites. If I've missed one of yours, please leave me a comment on Facebook and I'll add it to the list.

1. *Stuff You Missed in History Class* -

There are literally hundreds of episodes of this podcast, each one focusing on people, places and events you may or may not have heard about. But even if you have .. I'm sure you've never heard the details that the show's hosts Holly and Tracey have managed to dig up!
(www.missedinhistory.com/podcasts)

2. *Hardcore History* with Dan Carlin- Was Alexander the Great as bad a person as Adolf Hitler? What was it really like in the trenches during WWI? Will the American civilization fall like empires of the past?" As described in iTunes, "This isn't academic history ...(Dan Carlin is a journalist, not a historian) but the podcast's unique blend of high drama, masterful narration and Twilight-Zone

style twists has entertained millions of listeners. *Note:* Dan's podcasts are well researched and super detailed. Consequently, they are all quite long. Don't expect to consume an entire podcast in one sitting!
(www.dancarlin.com)

3. *We the People* - Thought-provoking podcasts produced by the **National Constitution Center** in Philadelphia. Each features leading experts in Constitutional law and American history interviewed by Jeffrey Rosen, president & CEO of the NCC. (constitutioncenter.org/blog/filter/podcasts)

4. *Crash Course - US History* OK, this one is not a podcast, it's a video series, so you have to watch it on your computer. But it's **my very favorite** and I guarantee you will love this irreverent but



extremely coherent and important take on American history. Host and co-creator John Green does an extraordinary job tying together often seemingly disparate events and movements to show how we got to where we are today. You can watch in any order, but really - why not start at the very beginning. You don't really believe that Columbus discovered America, do you?
(thecrashcourse.com/courses/ushistory)

In Memoriam...cont.

the first Registered Medical Record Librarians in Pennsylvania.

Ruth had a lifelong interest in family genealogy and served as secretary for the Kolb, Kulp, Culp Family Reunion for over 40 years.

Ruth was proud of her Knapp family heritage and took special interest in preserving the Knapp Farm (now our Society's headquarters.) She was interested in local history and was a member of the Towamencin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She was also a longtime member of the Montgomery Square United Methodist Church and later the Sanctuary United Methodist Church in North Wales. After retirement, Ruth spent many years as a special caregiver to multiple family members. She enjoyed gardening, knitting, reading and baking.

Thanks to Ruth's generosity, much of the original furniture from the Knapp Farmhouse remains in the house. Ruth's memorial contributions have also been designated to the Society for the preservation of the Knapp Farm. Anyone wishing to contribute in Ruth's honor can log on to www.knappfarm.org and follow the link under "More" on the top menu bar to the "Donate" page.

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Once Upon a Time ...Bethlehem Pike looking south from the 5 points intersection.

