



# Knapp Notes

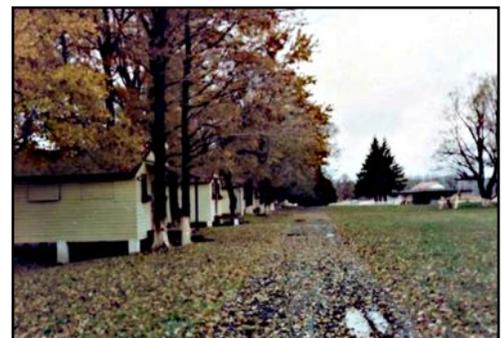
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Those Were the (Summer) Days!



One of the best things about living in Montgomery Township is having access to so many wonderful parks and recreation areas. The largest is Windlestrae Park, stretching for 172 lush, green acres between Stump and Kenas Roads. But because so many of the township's current residents moved in after 1986, they may not realize that long before their kids were sprinting down the fields after a soccer ball or shooting hoops and playing street hockey in Windlestrae's Rose Twig Section, generations of other children spent their summers enjoying the fresh air and wide open spaces of Camp Rose Twig, a township institution for 45 years.

According to the property's last owner, Aaron Rosenzweig, his parents and grandparents purchased the 147-acre farm in 1930s. Then, as he recalls, the Rosenzweigs proceeded to turn it into a summer camp for the family, then an overnight camp and finally a summer camp for day and overnight campers. "About 100 acres were farmed with corn, wheat, and soy beans while about 50 acres were comprised of cabins, dining hall, recreation hall, craft rooms, wood shops, a lake, and dozens of other activity buildings, pavilions, and nature areas," Aaron reminisces. "For more than 45 years, kids spent their summers in the open air having fun learning how to live together in the out-of-doors on a farm."



*Cont. p. 2*

### Have You Renewed 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. While our website is offline, renewal forms are available by calling Sue Gordon at 215-206-7145 or by email at scbg1972@gmail.com.



THANKS to a generous grant from Pennsylvania Questors and the Brittany Belles Questors, Chapter 1405, the Knapp Farmhouse now has two new light fixtures in its great room.

The era-appropriate pewter chandeliers provide some much needed light and elegance to our society's headquarters at the Knapp Farm. The Board and members of MTHS are grateful to the Questors for their ongoing generosity to our society.

**Montgomery Township  
Historical Society**

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Several years ago, we asked our Facebook followers if they remembered the camp, and were delighted to hear from a number of local residents who remembered Rose Twig fondly with comments like these:



*Stephen (North Wales) "I worked as an overnight counselor at Camp Rose Twig from 1954 to 1963. Lots of great memories."*

*Leonard (Philadelphia) "I also went in the late 60's and early 70s. I was in Oklahoma. I was lead in Sound of Music. Captain Von Trappe. I was also a counselor in the mid-70's. Such fond memories."*

*Mitchell (Philadelphia) "I went there in 1963. I always wondered where exactly it was. Our driver on Fridays used to stop at the dairy bar that was at 309 and Welsh Road on the way home. Funny the things you remember."*

*Ann Marie "Oh my goodness - I went there in the late 60's/early 70's. I remember it so fondly! I rode horses and performed in "Oklahoma."*

## Those Were the (Summer) Days (cont.)

Camp Rose Twig continued to delight young and old from the '50s through 1986, when Mrs. Rosenzweig (Aaron's mother) died. With Montgomery Township's population booming, and its rural character shrinking, the family decided to sell the farm to the David Cutler Group which, in turn, donated a portion of the property to the township as park land (the aforementioned Rose Twig section of Windlestrae Park). The Mallard Pond housing development now occupies the rest of the camp property, and two of the streets there are named Camp Drive and Rose Twig Lane, a fitting reminder of summer days gone by.



## Not-So-Breaking News



The MTHS website –[www.knappfarm.org](http://www.knappfarm.org)– has been offline for several months now. It's getting a major redesign to make it more interactive and user-friendly. Watch for updates and information regarding our "relaunch" date on Facebook and Twitter.

## From the Archives...

Montgomery County Tax Records from 1795 list 73 property owners in Montgomery Township and illustrate the kinds of skilled craftsmen needed in a thriving rural economy. The occupations of residents (other than "farmer") listed in the tax records include:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Weaver (4)     | Doctor (2)     |
| Tanner (2)     | Taylor         |
| Blacksmith (2) | Storekeeper    |
| Laborer        | Shoemaker      |
| Mason          | Cordwainer (2) |
| Wheelwright    | Innkeeper      |
| Carpenter      | Schoolmaster   |
| Millwright     | Gentleman (1)  |