PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
(by Michael Morrison)

When Nancy Powell-Daley contacted me last year about visiting her family home at 158 Allendale Road, I was excited beyond words, but I’ve calmed down since then. Enough at least, to write about my nearly yearlong relationship with Nancy, and the discoveries we have made together, at her house. It is a story of one woman’s kindness and generosity, with the strong belief that the past is worth preserving.

First, some background on the house: It was a tenant house for Billy Walker’s farm and was sold to the Powell family in 1944. They moved in during that summer according to the writing inside the cellar wall. So it has been the Powell residence since then. The police station was next door at one time where a law office is now.

James Keil with all his brothers and sister lived there from the twenties into the forties. His parents worked for the Walkers on the farm, and as was the custom, were provided with a place to live as part of their wages.

The oldest section of the home is the north side, built in 1750. An addition was added to the south side in 1917, adding a dining room and kitchen. A porch was added in 1956, covering over the old pump and well.

Nancy’s brother, Elwood Melvin (Bud) Powell, Jr. lived in the house until last year when he passed away. Both Nancy and Bud were the children of Elwood Melvin Powell, Sr., a dealer in farm supplies, and Margaret White Powell, a home economics teacher at Upper Merion Area Junior High School. The family loved their home and their community, saving anything and everything about the township and the surrounding area.

Throughout this past year, Nancy has had the daunting task of emptying the house and making it ready for sale. I am pleased that I was able to assist her with some local contacts and places to sell some of the more interesting items in the house, rather than having them hauled away (although there were plenty of those items, too!). Throughout this past year we would get together when Nancy made the sojourn from her home in Concord, MA, and she would share her new discoveries, and there would always be a pile for me to take back to the society. One of the most fascinating items is a painting of the house done by the artist, Lois Rapp. The artist actually sat in the pasture across the road and painted the north and west side. Of course, that pasture long ago became the home of the Court at King of Prussia.

Last month I was joined by members of the Society and Michael Keil, whose family lived in the home before the Powell family. We were given a tour of the property by Nancy and invited to photograph the interior and the exterior of the home. We enjoyed our time there, and listened intently to the many stories Nancy shared about her family and about growing up in early King of Prussia. One of the interesting stories she related was about the children who lived in the home before her time and had to walk to school all the way to Port Kennedy! Oh, how times have changed! Many old newspaper articles we obtained, tell the story of the early days of the township and fill in many puzzle pieces. It is an invaluable collection, and we so very much appreciate the generosity of Nancy Powell-Daley. Society member Janice Boyer also deserves thanks for putting Nancy in touch with us. This is a wonderful example of many dedicated souls coming together to keep our history alive. Well done, all.
The Town Crier— updates from the Society...

OUR 2016 CHARTER MEMBERS
We acknowledge our Charter Members for 2016 and thank them for their support: Emma Carson, Dave and Marianne Furman, John and Shirley Funkhouser, Michael Morrison, Frank Luther.

The Society is also pleased to honor Ed Dybicz (1923-2015) as an honorary member for his many contributions to the Society and for his untiring efforts to preserve the history of Upper Merion.

INTERESTED IN WRITING?
The Society welcomes articles prepared by its members. Contact Frank Luther if you might be interested in writing and sharing an article for our publication.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Check the back page for the listing of our upcoming meeting dates and our special programs.

INFO ABOUT UPPER MERION
Is there a question you have about some aspect of the township’s history? You can submit your question to us at info@kophistory.org and we will provide an answer in a future issue. Please check the letter from the New Jersey teacher that appears in this issue.

Check out the King of Prussia Historical Society website at www.kophistory.org. And find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kophisory.

MEMBERSHIP
Our membership campaign for 2016 is underway! New memberships and renewals will be accepted at this time. Looking for a unique gift? Why not present a family member or friend with an annual membership for the King of Prussia Historical Society! We supply a gift card for you to present to the recipient.

Student/Senior (65+): $35.00 Individual: $40.00
Family Household $50.00 Patron: $125.00
Charter: $250.00

PayPal is available.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS
Please note that our mailing address is King of Prussia Historical Society, PO Box 60716, King of Prussia, PA 19406-0716.

FIFTY YEARS!
This September, Caley Road Elementary School is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. Where did the name Caley come from? Check the article on page 7 in this issue.

SUMMER INTERN
Back in May, Dan Neagoe, a student at West Chester University, majoring in Social Studies, contacted us about his being interested in doing some kind of work over the summer. He noted that he is naturally interested in history and would very much enjoy working at a historical society. He further indicated that he was particularly skilled in writing, research, and analyzing information. Dan interviewed with us on June 1 and agreed to work with us. He immediately began working on a local history brochure for students, which is now available in the Upper Merion Area schools.

Dan began his student teaching at Arcola Middle School in the Methacton School District this semester. We wish him well as he begins his teaching career.

10 Things I Miss About Growing Up In King Of Prussia
Check out the article by Brandon Thornton beginning on page 6 of this issue. What do you miss from your earlier days in King of Prussia? You might consider sharing your thoughts with us to be included in a future issue of THE GAZETTE.

TEACHER RESOURCES
Check out the Teacher Resources link on our website created by David Montalvo, Upper Merion Area High School teacher and KOPHS board member. David noted that these are some resources that can be used in the classroom; however, anyone interested in local Upper Merion history will find the resources valuable:

Aerial Photos and Maps, Anna Morris Holstein, Christ Church (Old Swedes), Limestone and Geology, From Rebel Hill to Valley Forge, Bridgeport, West Conshohocken and the Schuylkill River Towns, Environmental Issues.

BIRD IN HAND HOTEL ARTIFACTS FOUND!
(E-mail from Chris Kaasman)
I was exploring Gulph Creek this morning (July 26, 2016) and made a great discovery! It appears as the creek has eroded the bluffs, it is revealing treasures lost and forgotten from years ago. I was able to excavate and obtain some items this morning, however there are many more!

Even cooler, as I was leaving, I found (lying in the middle of the creek near the bridge what appears to be a piece of an old gravestone, although I could be wrong. Either way, it’s old and its cool!!

The little porcelain figures with the missing heads have a "Crown and N" symbol on the bottom. If my research is correct, this tells me that this was probably made in Italy at the Capo Di Monte porcelain factory between 1771 and 1834! That’s assuming it’s not a fake, but either way it’s cool and old!

The other glass bottles say things like, "Citrate of Magnesia" and "Heinz Co."

I’m going back tomorrow!
The century that gave William Penn to the world was a period of great intellectual activity, yet there was no such thing as religious liberty and education for the masses. Penn was a far-sighted statesman and enlightened lawyer well in advance of his day and generation. In his "bold experiment" he granted the fullest civil and religious freedom to all men. It is small wonder that such a man, in his frame of government, had written the following as Articles 12 and 13 before leaving England:

*Article 12: The government and Provincial Council shall erect and order all public schools, and encourage and reward the authors of useful sciences and laudable inventions in the said Province."

Article 13: A committee of manners, education and arts, that wicked and scandalous living may be prevented and that youth may be successfully trained up in virtue and useful knowledge and arts." (Colonial records, 34)

At the 2nd Assembly of the Province which sat at Philadelphia March 10, 1683, the following law was enacted with reference to the education of children. (B’s Hist. P. 393)

“And to the end that the Poor as well as the Rich may be instructed in good and commendable learning, which is to be preferred before wealth: Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all persons within the Province and territories thereof having children, and all the Guardians and Trustees of Orphans, shall cause such to be instructed in reading and writing, so that they may be able to read the Scriptures and write by the time they attain the age of twelve years, and that they may be taught some useful trade or skill that yo Poor, may work to live, and the Rich, if they become Poor may not want, of which every county court may take care; and in this case such Parents, Guardians or Overseers shall be found deficient in this respect, every such Parent, Guardian or Overseer shall pay for every such child five pounds, except there should appear an incapacity of body or understanding to hinder it.”

From these provisions stemmed our great public school system as we know it today. The Welsh who came to Upper Merion, being Friends, and exposed to such indoctrination, labored to carry out the views of their leader. They built their first school of logs on the Roberts’ property west of the present Township Building. The Welsh were an intelligent, cultured people, and saw before it that their children were taught in a home of one of their number even before they had time to locate a building. This was usually done in all colonies, and in Upper Merion was a custom well into the 1800’s.

The King of Prussia Gazette
from 1810 to 1836. The will of William Stewart, dated May 4, 1808 established a trust fund “that the poor children of the neighborhood might be educated.” He desired an education for other people since he had never gone to school long enough to learn to write his own name. The dwelling adjacent to the building put up in 1810 was the home of the teacher, rented to him by the Trustees. The hall on the west side of the building was used for literary and scientific purposes. Regular meetings for lectures, debates and discussions were held on Saturday nights, and one of the largest libraries in the Country was housed here.

The Common School Act of 1834 was accepted after each debate by the residents of Upper Merion, and on December 28, 1836 the Trustees decided to conduct the Union School as a common school, but the final step to place the school in charge of the School Directors was not taken until September 27, 1838. By adding subscriptions from the residents of the neighborhood to the little money remaining in the Stewart Fund, an amount large enough to erect a new building was accumulated. The structure contained a large room for school purposes, an entrance hall that led to a library, and a stairway on the west leading to a hall on the second floor. The school room held four rows of double, immovable desks with a platform along the east side of the room on which stood the teacher’s desk.

No other part of the building was used for school purposes until 1917, when the children from the Roberts’ School on Croton Road were transferred here. It was then necessary to use all the rooms in the building for school purposes. The Stewart Fund or Union School was not used as a public school after 1930 because of the consolidation of schools. The Stewart Fund exists today, and the income is used to assist needy and worthy children of the district in gaining an education. The Stewart Fund Building was sold to the Township Supervisors July 31, 1945 for $7,000. Now the first floor contains offices for the various Township officials, while the second floor may be used by church groups or for organization meetings.

The Union School is credited by some historians as being the first one built in Upper Merion, but there stands at the southwest corner of Baptist and Gulph Roads a building bearing the date 1705. This school was erected by Letitia Aubrey, second daughter of Wm. Penn. She was the daughter to whom Penn ceded the manor of Mt. Joy. The history of this school is vague, but the date 1705 is accepted by both Dr. Burke and ex-governor Pennypack in their writings, so we may assume it to be authentic.

GULPH SCHOOL

There are those who claim that the Gulph School dated back to 1696, but this assertion seems questionable. Jonathon Roberts, in his “Memoirs”, tells of walking morning and night between his home and the Gulph School, a distance of four miles, in 1795. This school stood on Matsonford Road near the Gulph Road, east of the present Gulph Christian Church. Later a one-room, stone building was erected on the site. A second story was added to it about 1903. The Gulph Lyceum, organized 1860, met here for “self-improvement by lectures, essays and debates”. In 1930, because of consolidation, the building was sold to the Gulph Christian Church and is known as “The Education Building”.

OLD SWEDES’ SCHOOL

About 1730, when Rev. Samuel Hesselius visited the Swedes of Upper Merion and held services in the home of Gunnar Rambo, because of the good attendance he advised building a school house. He felt that in building the children would enjoy the advantages of a better education than they had received in their home instruction.
home instruction. He also suggested that the building be used for religious services. His suggestions were well received and plans were made to carry them out. Thus the school was completed about 1735, but no regular teacher was employed for some time. This building was used for many years both as a school and a church. Later the children in Swedesburg went to Swedeland to school until a one-story frame building was erected in Swedensburg. When it was abandoned in 1930 it was taking care of pupils ranging from grades 1 to 5.

FLINT HILL SCHOOL

The Flint Hill School was built in 1745 on the farm of Isaac Supplee, of Matsuks, now Swedeland. It stood on the road leading from Swedeland to the Gulph. It was still in operation in 1815, but was abandoned later because it lacked pupils and it was then used as a dwelling.

In 1867, because of growth in population, a stone building was erected in Swedeland. This was rebuilt in 1898, when rooms were added, and has since been used as a private home. In 1921 a modern stone building was erected on “B” Street, Swedeland. During 1957 a kitchen, a cafeteria, and a multi-purpose room were added to this building, which is still a part of the Upper Merion Public School System.

The five schools I have mentioned were the first in the Township. They were built of logs out of the woods by the settlers and had open fireplaces. The backless benches that ranged along the walls, and the desks, were also from the woods. Pens were carved from quills; ink was made with soot or poke berries. The Bible was the great text book. Those who found school books in their homes, brought from the motherland, used them, so the instruction was individual for the most part.

The teachers instructed in whatever subject they happened to be proficient. Most of them came from across the water and many were ministers. Often the teacher “boarded around”, going from house to house, and thus came to know his pupils well. The pupils in the early schools ranged in age from 5 or 6 to young men of 21. The school terms varied in length, depending on when the pupils could be spared free from their share in the making of their homes in the wilderness. The older people sometimes attended during the winter months, and the small children during the summer. The parents who were able to pay tuition did so, but the poor children received little instruction. If it was practicable, the farmers paid the tuition partly in grain.

On February 25, 2016, Michael Morrison wrote on the page “You need to know that we’re from King of Prussia and it’s more than just a mall” that the King of Prussia Historical Society thinks there should be a museum somewhere in town that would include space for our collection and a place to meet. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas, and maybe you know of a little space tucked away somewhere in the township? That same day there were thirty-three likes, twenty-four comments, and one share.

The comments were very interesting and supportive. One was, “Have you contacted the larger local property owners to see if any have space they would be willing to donate? It would be a great community service opportunity plus a nice write off!”

Another comment asked, “Aren't you folks meeting at the relocated Inn these days? I haven't been in the Inn since the relocation; what's the interior like these days? Any chance of looking into a grant to work with the Inn and possibly a new adjacent building that's tactfully attached to the Inn. William Penn Foundation, maybe? There might be some conservation grants that might help...maybe talk to the folks at Schuylkill River Heritage Area? That's just off the top of my head. The extension of the Chester Valley Trail (projected construction 2017) passes right by the INN if I'm not mistaken, that seems attached to the Inn. The extension of the Chester Valley Trail (projected construction 2017) passes right by the INN if I'm not mistaken, that seems to open opportunities to bring funds to that site. Also the September 11 National Memorial Trail is trying to find a route that links the Valley Forge NHP into their East Coast Greenway leg. I can't remember what that loop does but some of the SRT is involved. These regional Trail networks are drawing all kinds of interest and funding support for historic sites and landmarks. Like I said...just thinking off the top of my hat. I'm also thinking even PA-DCNR. Their recreation and conservation mission with their grant program also includes "Cultural Heritage"...sooo maybe.

The Society responded that the Inn has no space for us, and there is no land available for expansion. We have always felt that it should be our home, and would love to see a trailhead there, along with signage. We had our January business meeting there, but our regular monthly meetings are held at Christ Old Swedes Church. Recent developments have created the need to find a new home, and I'm hoping to find someone in business who might like to sponsor a new museum.

A MUSEUM IN UPPER MERION?
10 THINGS I MISS ABOUT GROWING UP IN KING OF PRUSSIA
by Brandon Thornton, The List, March 28, 2016

Ah, good old KOP, a place that can lay a legitimate claim to being the shopping capital of the world, yet its inhabitants will still habitually complain that it’s boring. But while it may be going through drastic changes with construction 24/7, I will always call it home. Now with college graduation on the horizon, I started to think about how much I loved about growing up there, but also how I can no longer do the things that I loved, based on these aforementioned changes. So with that said, here are 10 things in no particular order, I loved about growing up in King of Prussia that I can no longer do.

1. The McDonald’s on 202
Now while it may not have tasted any different, or was the cleanest than the rest (absolutely was not) looking back I miss it because well, a) it had a killer jungle-gym despite it being absolutely disgusting, and b) after seeing the revolving door of businesses that replaced it like The King of Prussia Diner, and Geno’s (RIP) it was nice having a long-term establishment being run there. Pick a business and stick with it. I need some stability in my town.

2. Pizza Hut
Remember the Pizza Hut around where Moe’s is? I like Pizza Hut. When was the last time you’ve seen a Pizza Hut?

3. Domino’s Day in Elementary School
Yes, the good old days when nobody cared about childhood obesity. Last Friday of the month? Domino’s Pizza for everyone at lunch. The average life span of these slices would be about eleven and a half seconds, but my, what a glorious short span of time.

4. Saturdays at Walker Field
Nothing was better than waking up on a Saturday, and heading to Walker Field hours before your UMBA game and either playing wall ball, have a home run derby on the t-ball field, or rotting your teeth to the core with slush puppies and Big League Chew from the tack house. Plus I miss when football was played at Walker too. What I wouldn’t give to go to another Bateman Day at Walker Field.

5. The Old Middle School
There was an exciting feeling the first day of 5th grade as I, along with my fellow Caley Cougars were about to begin our reign of terror that would continue on to this day. Not throwing shade at Candlebrook, Roberts, or Bridgeport, but there’s no denying that those wood chips at Caley breeds champions. I don’t make the rules, I just have to follow them. Talk to me when you don’t have AC for four years. The school itself was just a labyrinth. Hidden staircases, two cafeterias (technically) and a shop department that was essentially underground. The new one is nice, but it just isn’t the same. Plus I miss those old baseball fields as well.

6. The Old Farm
You are an OG if you remember the old days when you had to go inside of Pertrucci’s in order to get your ice cream. A simpler time before the rooster was brutally vandalized. That bald guy was still there though. Local legend.

7. The Low Nets at Sweetbriar
If any town representatives are reading (I’d be flattered), please just bring these back to me. What good is being an average Joe if you can’t pretend the other is true by dunking on a seven-foot rim?

8. Viki from 6-Eleven
Yes, King of Prussia doesn’t have a 7-11. We have a 6-Eleven. Deal with it. But the Indian man Viki, who owned it, was a beast. Sure some hooligan kids would steal and prank call him, but those same kids pretty much paid his mortgage from coming in at least three times a day in the summer. I personally have no problem with the new ownership, but it isn’t the same.

9. Sledding at Valley Forge
Sure I almost gave myself a concussion from it, but there is no better sledding spot on this Earth than at Valley Forge. There’s always room since the area is massive, and you can get an education simply by being on a historical landmark. Learning can be fun.

10. The Old Mall
Now by “old mall” all I mean is how it was when I was a kid. I need the Thomas the Tank Engine store, and the Looney Toons store back, and the old Modell’s. Plus, it was cool feeling all smug during holiday season watching people look all lost in the mall while you know where you’re going. Shoobies. Now, I won’t go near the mall during the holidays. It’s like the Purge out there.

So yeah a lot has changed in my hometown since I was a kid. But you know what, I really can’t let it bother me too much, because if all goes well, I’ll be traveling and not spending too much time there. But still, there’s no place like home.
Cyrus Hickman Caley, secretary of the Upper Merion school board, was a native of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He was born February 11, 1842, near Radnor Friends’ Meeting. He was the son of Samuel and Lucy C. (Hickman) Caley. His mother was a daughter of Cyrus and Phebe (Matlack) Hickman.

Samuel Caley (father) was born near Newtown Square, Delaware County and lived there most of his life. He married Lucy C. Hickman, born in Westtown Township near the noted Friends’ School. Samuel died in December, 1886, and his wife, on April 13, 1900. Of their children Cyrus H. was the eldest; Samuel, born June 1844, died August 20, 1901, married Mary Yarnall, having one child, Mary Frances; Annie died in childhood; William, born December 6, 1850, married (first wife) Miriam Bowker, they had one child, Howard B. Caley (deceased) and married (second wife) Anna Mulford; he was living then in Delaware County; Elizabeth, born in 1853, resided in Media; Hannah married Empson Garwood; and Margaret resided at Media. Samuel Caley was born March 14, 1815, and at the time of his death was seventy-one years of age.

The grandparents of Cyrus Caley were Samuel and Ann (Phillips) Caley. The great-grandfather, Samuel Caley, married a Miss Reese. His father was also named Samuel Caley. The family was of English origin and settled at Newtown Square nearly three hundred years ago.

Cyrus H. Caley was reared on the farm, attended the Friends and public schools of the neighborhood, also Gwynedd Friends’ boarding-school, at that time under the charge of Hugh Foulke. He studied two terms at Millersville State Normal School. He farmed with his father until his marriage.

March 16, 1865, he married Annie L. Beidler and bought a farm near White Horse, Chester County, Pennsylvania, where he remained three years. He then purchased a farm near Newtown Square, remaining there eight years. He sold that farm and made several changes in the next five, finally settling in Upper Merion about a mile and a half from Port Kennedy, where he lived. He was a prosperous farmer and sold at the Norristown market.

In February, 1891, he was elected to the school board of Upper Merion Township and was its secretary almost from the beginning of his term of service. In politics he was a Republican and took an active interest in the success of his party.

July 3, 1863, he enlisted in Company E, Forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia. He remained at Harrisburg for three months, was sent to Hagerstown, Maryland, and after remaining there one month, the troops went to Minersville, Pennsylvania, to quell a riot. He was mustered out of service at Reading, September 10, 1863.

The children of Cyrus and Annie L. Caley were: Harry Thomas, born Twelfth-mo., 1865, died Fourth-mo. 13, 1867; Sarah Lucy, born Fifth-mo. 11, 1868; Ella Beidler, born Twelfth-mo. 14, 1869; Laura Massey, born Twelfth-mo. 6, 1873; J. Oswald, born Fourth-mo. 4, 1876; Jonathan Richards, born Third-mo. 8, 1878; David Ashmore, born Eighth-mo. 21, 1880; Hannah Mary, born Fifth-mo. 4, 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Caley were not members of the Society of Friends but they and several of their family attended Valley Meeting.

"REMINISCING" UPPER MERION

What things do you miss about Upper Merion? What do you miss about the Upper Merion of the past? Do you have stories, memories, or photos that you could share with the Society and our members? We would like to hear from you so we could feature your material in future editions of THE KING OF PRUSSIA GAZETTE and later be placed in our archival collection for future reference.

From experience, we have found that many members of the community have stories, memories, and photos that can contribute to the history of Upper Merion---past history and even recent history that needs to be saved. Consider taking a few moments to sit down and reminisce about things that you miss about Upper Merion’s past. Then take those memories, write them down, and share them with us and our members.

We look forward to receiving any contributions that you might make and which we will feature in future editions of THE KING OF PRUSSIA GAZETTE.
2016 Program Calendar

Subject to change. Check the society’s website or Facebook page for the most up to date information:

www.kophistory.org ~ www.facebook.com/kophistory or contact info@kophistory.org

September 10 ~ 2:00 pm  Michael Morrison: **Slim the Lineman**

September 17 ~ 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM:
Montgomery County History Day — **Theme: Necessities**
Heckler Plains Farmstead

October 8 ~ 2:00 pm  Young Historians: Chris Kaasman: Geocaching

October 15 ~ 10:00 am  Board Meeting

November 12 ~ 2:00 pm  Robert Miller: **KOP’s Nazi Spy**

December 13 ~ 7:00 pm  Santa Lucia Feast
Holiday Celebration for the Society
Christ Church (Old Swedes)

Unless noted otherwise, meetings are held on Saturday at Christ Church (Old Swedes) Hall, 740 River Road, Swedesburg PA 19405 ~ GPS coordinates 40.103498, -75.327288