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From the Editor

If you love maps and old roads, then this is the issue for you. In our lead article, Society member and *Quarterly* Editor, Mike Bertram, compiled hundreds of hours of research into the roads, paths, and byways of Tredyffrin that existed prior to the regular production of maps. The earliest detailed road maps began to appear around the mid-19th century, starting with an 1847 Chester County map by Painter and Bowen. Mike scoured the Chester County Archives to unearth evidence of pre-existing roads.

Mike credits Society President Roger Thorne with sparking his interest in the subject in 2006, when he asked Mike about circa-1777 roads leading to and from St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley. Roger was planning a program on "The Commemoration of the Fallen" (see the Winter 2008 issue). In his usual modest fashion, Mike imparts the following thoughts regarding his research:

The road article highlights what a wonderful resource we have in the Chester County Archives. The Archives has more or less all the 18th and 19th century road papers consisting of documents and plans. There are other document types in the Archives that have been hardly touched by researchers. The staff are wonderfully helpful.

The most spectacular find in the road papers is not actually included in this article, but will appear as a separate article in a future issue of the *Quarterly*. It is a road plan of the Swedesford Road area from 1728. A proposal to change the route of the road was not approved, but the plan shows the location of houses along the road and of a previously unknown graveyard.

Returning author of "Brackbill Farm Markets," K. Varden Leasa, has written a companion article, of sorts, to our prior issue's feature on Washington's stay at the Malin residence. Think of this as a continuation of the story of the Brackbill/Haldeman/Malin dynasty, as you read about them thriving and working their farm well into the 20th century. To this day, upon a tract adjacent to the one that was deeded to Isaac Malin in 1709, his direct descendents live - 299 years later. What a legacy!

Please note a correction to our Editor's Letter of the last issue: we introduced Mr. Leasa as a descendent of both the Malin and Brackbill families. He states that he is not actually of the Malins, but doesn't mind being mistaken for one, as he considers them his "adopted" early Chester County family.

Mike and Varden are both dedicated, productive researchers. We appreciate and value their passion for chronicling and documenting our vibrant local history. We hope to see more from them in future issues.



Cover Descriptions

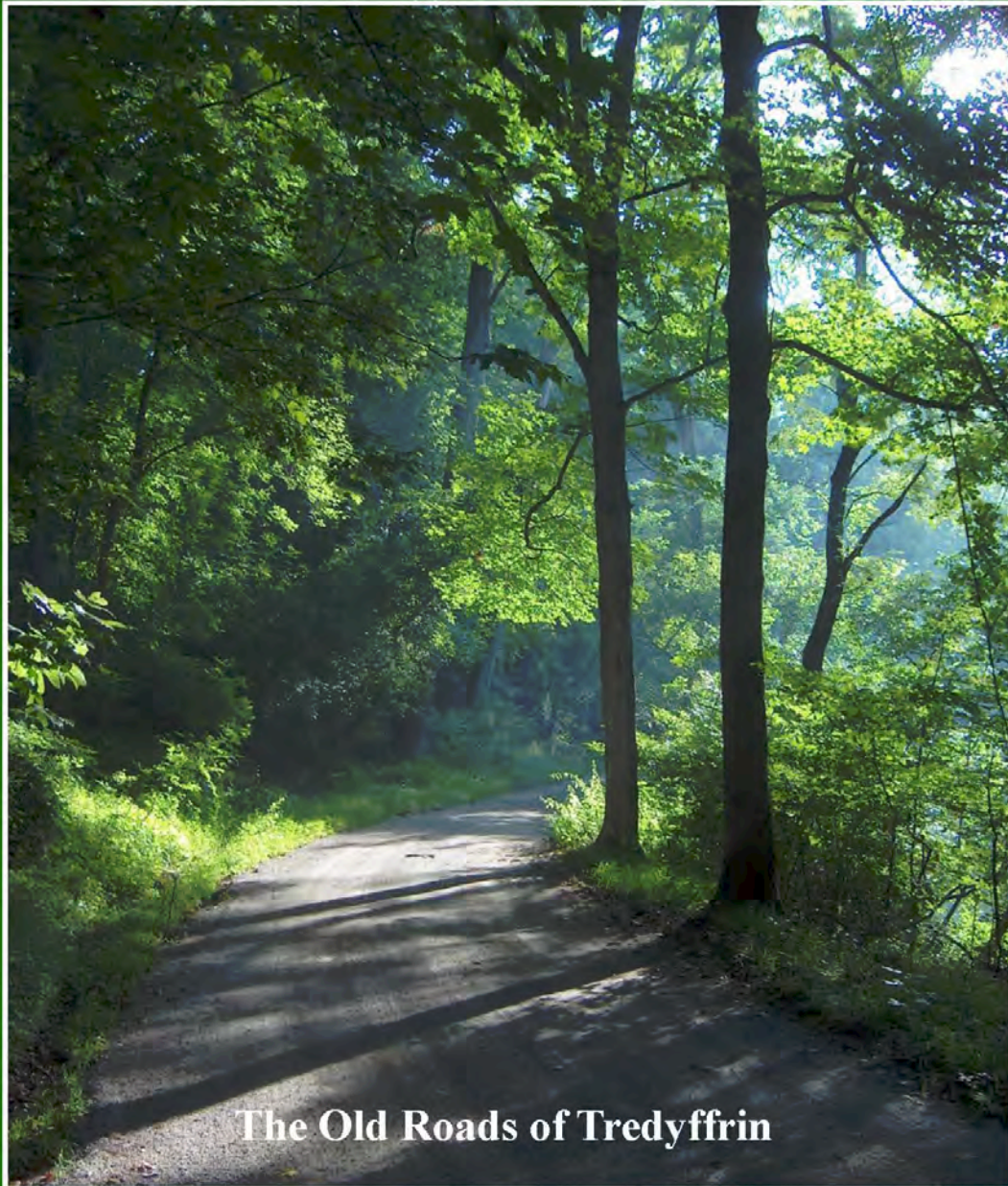
Front Cover: The last remaining segment of Bulls Corner Road, originally laid out in 1794. *Tim Lander.*

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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



The Old Roads of Tredyffrin

Brackbill Farm Markets • Historic House Tour

Back Cover: Homes featured on the 2008 House Tour of the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust. Clockwise from top: Berwyn Victorian, c. 1895; Duportail House, Chesterbrook, c. 1740; Sycamore Hill, Malvern, c. 1736; Gentleman's Farm, Valley Forge, c. 2001.

