

Olde Mill Road

Joseph Romano

It was born in colonial days, the offspring of cart wheels and earth,
hooves of equines and bovines carrying provisions in good times,
weapons of war when it was stormy.

Rain softened its moods, ice and snow hardened its temper.
Olde Mill's spine is a wondrous curve of granite stone a gauche,
and a tree banked stream a droite.

Two stone bridges support its back where road and stream conjoin.
The stones confirm its age and enrich its beauty.
Strong, rugged, maculated symmetry.

Olde Mill is alive with birds above and fish below.
The road sings a song of history and wisdom.

It sings of the Lenni Lenape long ago when Olde Mill was
A child born of moccasins and deer hunters.

It sings of pioneer farmers winding over the bend of time
to gather the summer grain.

It sings of Tredyffrin, the broad valley of trees, the pride
of Welsh women and men.

It sings of soldiers marked with history in red or tricorn
tramping down its corduroy path.

It sings of the Forge in the valley's winter of discontent
Less than a whippoorwill's call away.

It sings of the bramble of vines and broken trees and of
years and years and years of sounds and silence.

Beyond utility of passage between river and mountain
Olde Mill Road curves between river and rock,
Blossoms and birds.

Its name is Beauty.



Mill Road photos May 2023 © John O. Senior

My wife and I resided for 45 years on Yellow Springs Road, right off Mill Road. We were always struck by the quiet beauty of Mill Road, and it was always our meditative way home as we crossed the two old stone bridges over Valley Stream. I have paid tribute to his haven of ours in this poem that I would like to share with other residents of Tredyffrin. I hope my efforts to capture the allure of Olde Mill Road will remind them of the history and the beauty of the environs my wife and I have enjoyed over the years.

Joseph Romano
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Cabrini University

Copyright © 2026 Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society. All Rights Reserved. Authors retain copyright for their contributions.
This publication or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher.
Contact the Society for permission to use any content in this publication. The Society does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information herein.