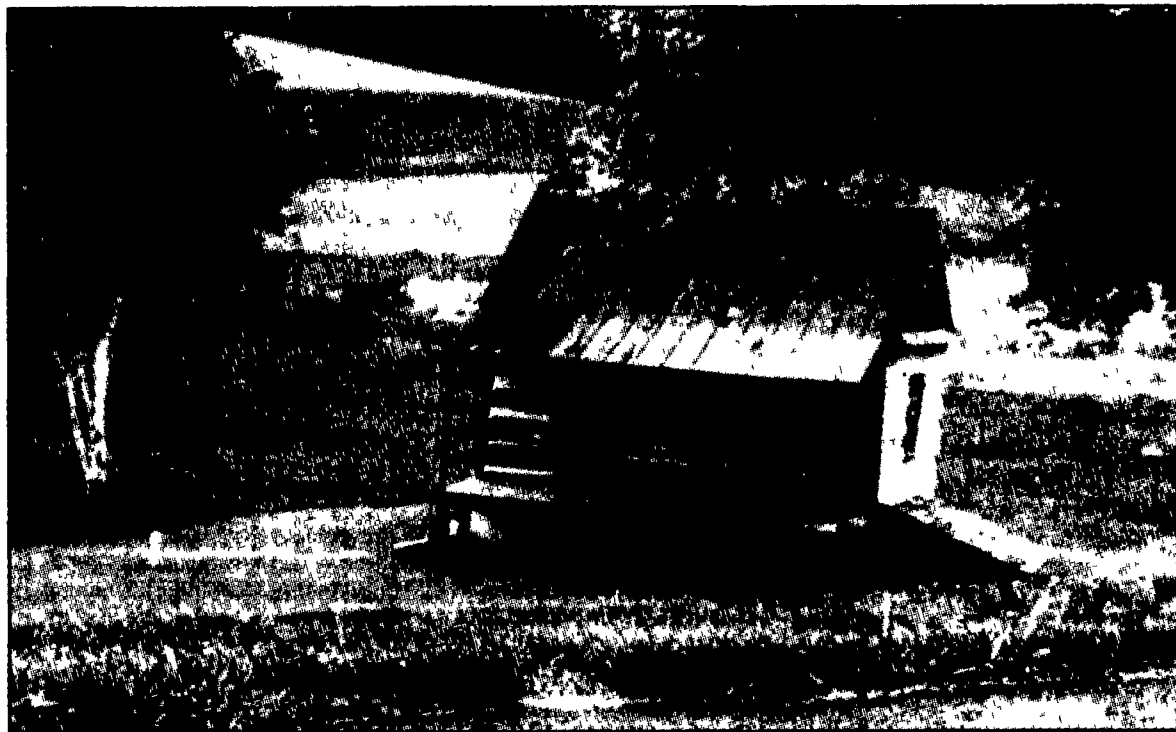


Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*



Gruber Log House



St. Paul's UCC Millbach Church

Turtle Trundle Stops At 12 Homes, 12 Churches With A Past

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WOMELSDORF (Berks Co.)
— "Turtle Trundle?"

What is it?

It is a driving and open house tour of historical homes and churches in the Tulpehocken area on Oct. 26, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tulpehocken is an Indian name meaning "land of the turtles." Trundle means motion or rolling. Put them together, and according to the Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society, the Turtle Trundle offers a way for people to view many historical sites.

The Tulpehocken territory consists of 16 townships, 14 in Berks County and two in Lebanon County, and covers about 322 square miles.

According to Shirley Brown, Richland, 15 families traveling from Scholharie, N.Y., settled in the area in 1723. About 95 percent of the original settlers were of German origin. They left their mark on the local architecture of both houses and churches.

Tour fee is \$15 per person. A detailed booklet containing driving directions and maps will be given to participants, enabling them to travel at their own speed.

In addition to the stops, the booklet will describe points of interest along the way such as Fort Zellers, the oldest existing fort, the canal locks, and many other historical homesteads.

Tickets can be purchased prior to the tour by calling the historical society at (610) 589-2527. Tickets will be available on the day of the tour at the Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society, 116 N. Front St., Womelsdorf.

Tour stops include the following churches:

- St. Elias Church.
- St. Paul's UCC in Millbach, an area which established Lebanon County's earliest German Baptist and Dunkards community.
- Trinity Tulpehocken Reformed Church, founded in 1727, is where Meier is buried in a cemetery across the street from the church.
- Christ Luthern Church, Stouchsburg, established in 1884, and rebuilt after lightning struck in 1887.
- Reeds Church open to display three antique organs, including a Gruber and a Dieffenbach, both made locally.
- Host Church (St. John's) was founded in 1727, the first church in the Tulpehocken settlement and the oldest Reformed congregation west of the Schuylkill. Site includes the sexton house built in 1840.

Christ Little Tulpehocken Church, Bernville, organized in 1740 by Rev. John Casper Stoever. A log church was used until 1809, when the present stone church was erected.

- North Heidelberg Church, Robesonia, built in 1846. The church houses a Wooden Tracker organ made in Reading by the Boehler Brothers and installed in 1894.
- Old Bellemans (Salem) Union Church, Mohrsville, where a log church was erected in 1746. The present church was built in 1922.
- St. Michaels Church, Hamburg, was erected in 1769 of logs. In 1810 a new building was erected.
- Friedens Church, Shartlesville, was erected in 1870.
- Altalaha Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rehrersburg.
- Trinity United Brethren Church, Mt. Aetna.

The following homes are open to tour participants:

- William Leinbach, Royers-town, coverlet and rug weaver, studio open for demonstration and sales.
- Isaac Meier House, named after the man who laid out the village originally called Tulpehockentown.
- The Postcard Institute, owned by Donald Brown, will have on display thousands of area postcards.
- Marion Township Municipal building, open to display two rooms that hold historical items.
- Conrad Weiser homestead is open for a reduced admission fee. Weiser was a famous Pennsylvania colonial diplomat, statesman, and peacemaker.
- Charming Forge Boarding House, owned by Matt Barnhart, was a popular inn when the forge and Union Canal were in operation. The 1790 section retains much of the original detail. The newer wing was constructed

about the time of the Civil War. An 1870 carriage barn was moved from its site in Lancaster to the Barnhart residence.

- Christian Gruber Log/School House (John and Sandra Kauffman) 7326 Bernville Rd., Bernville.
- Charles and Desiree Putt, Collector Road., Robesonia, own the former Kalbach house dated 1800. The barn has a date stone of 1876.
- Henry Gruber (brother to Christian) log house was warranted in 1737 and consists of 204 acres, log bank house, frame

barn, smoke house, and log cabin built over a spring. The log cabin will be open for touring. The barn houses Homestead Woodwork, a business owned by Russell and Mary Getz, 1576 Milestone Rd., Robesonia.

- Dave Esterbrook has a restored gas station and memorabilia at his home, 866 Main St., Mohrsville.
- Home of Rick and Sharon Kramer, 343 Godfrey St. Rehrersburg, began as an 1820 log house and was enlarged in 1840 with a frame addition. It is furnished with period pieces.



North Heidelberg Church



Salem Belleman's church.