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From the Editor

In this last issue of 2009, returning authors Roger Thorne, Mike Bertram, and Pattye Benson have filled our pages again. In the opening article, Roger leads the Society in its first foray into the science of dendrochronology. The Board agreed with Roger's recommendation to avail ourselves of this technology to see if a long-time legend could be proved or disproved.

This sets us apart from many other historical societies by serving to demonstrate how earnest we are in documenting our research. Such documentation allows us to know for certain whether the "Church Road Cabin" was built with logs from the original structure of what became the Church of St. Peter in the Great Valley. This beautiful church never fails to capture the imagination when one visits. It truly is a step back in time. Dendrochronology results aside, the mystique and aura of the church and its setting is retained.

Mike Bertram, who authored an article and a photo-essay, is our resident expert in all things Valley Forge. He lives near the Park and runs there often. He is an experienced deed researcher who conducts searches in lots of different kinds of places. Mike can often find evidence to back up (or not!) sketchy or purported "facts" and/or beliefs. As an example, see page 114 for explanations of the landholdings on the earliest known map that shows houses in Tredyffrin.

With her updates, Pattye Benson keeps us abreast of goings-on in the historic community outside of our Society. This time, Pattye writes about the families who graciously opened their homes for the 5th THPT house tour. The houses and properties were amazing and thrilled tour-goers again.

We can thank Tim Lander for resurrecting Bob Goshorn's article on Ponemah. This story of the forced indoctrination of American Indian children is disturbing and fascinating. In today's climate of diversity, it's hard to conceive of Indian children being taken from their homes by our government and sent across the country to be assimilated.

Joyce Post continues to support the *Quarterly* team with proofreading, by writing book reviews, and by compiling the annual Index, an unenviable task.

As for in-house news, Roger is back as our President after stepping away to focus his attention on caring for his elderly parents. This position was vacant until his recent return. As ever, he's moving full speed ahead exploring new and interesting initiatives, to discover which can best be brought to fruition for the good of the Society.

In closing, we gratefully acknowledge our Patrons, those members who give generously above the usual levels.

Cover Descriptions

Front Cover: The south and east walls of the Church Rd. cabin during its reconstruction. *Courtesy of Roger Thorne.*

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TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY



Church Road Cabin

The White House in Valley Forge

Ponemah: Land of the Hereafter

Back Cover: A winter scene of the Spread Eagle Tavern in 1796. *Courtesy of Chester County Historical Society.*

