**The Turnersville Post Office**

Turnersville in 1700s was a small village at the headwaters of Timber Creek. It consisted of about 20 residents. In the 1800s, a number of businesses were set up– a sawmill was built by Isaac Collins, a grist-mill by Peter Cheeseman, and a charcoal business by Crees. By this time, there were about 150 residents, a school with Israel Furth as teacher, and the Post Office built in 1864 now sited in the Olde Stone House Village. Its original placement was on the Black Horse Pike near County House Road. It is said the building was about eight feet longer in depth, but that portion was at one point removed by Mr. Craven Turner.

The building sat in that location until 1971. The first Postmaster was

William C. Garwood who served until July of 1866. Successive Postmasters included, Samuel Parks (1866) Andrew Turner (1867) Samuel Godshaw (1872, Daniel Turner in 1886. Benjamin Sickler was appointed in 1887, Joseph Simkins in 1889, and another Joseph (illegible last name) in 1891. William Nickolson (1893, Charles Nicolson (1905, Wilbert Duell (1908) S. Chew in 1909, Merrit Jenkins in 1916, John Williams in 1917, and Herbert Williams in 1920. The Post Office was then closed in April of that year and service centered in the Grenloch office until 1968 when Turnersville reopened in a shopping center.

The original property was purchased by Roseson-Goldberg Realty, who gave the building to the Historic Society in 1971. It was moved to its present location in 1988.

Washington Township itself covered 16 miles by 4 miles but had a population of only 2,000 residents in the mid 1800s. Before the post offices were established, mail relied on neighbors traveling toward a city or postal riders who would collect letters from taverns. Nearby, the Gabriel Davies tavern in Blenheim was used as a postal collection. Schooners carrying lumber and produce navigated the Big Timber Creek up to Camden City, and stopped at the Tavern’s dock. Postage was paid by those receiving the letter.

By the mid 19th century, a post office had been established in an office of the Bateman Iron Age Implements factory in Grenloch, and in 1874, a one room post office was established at the foot of the S hill with August Bradshaw as postmaster.

Mail was not delivered to homes (as continues to be the case in Grenloch Terrace) but only to the Post Office. The postmaster sorted the mail into the cubbyholes according to address, and people picked up their mail when they could. The post boxes currently here are not the originals as these were removed early in the 20th century. The letters you see there now are from the late 19th and early 20th century, two of which have the Turnersville postmark on the envelopes.

The building was partially refurbished in the 1980s by the Historic Society and has again been rehabilitated in recent years. In 2016 the building was completely repainted, inside and out, and the following year, a new cedar shake roof was added. The chimney remains to be repointed.