

“This first known history and description of Trappe was originally printed in April 1874 issue of *The Index*, Trappe's first newspaper, of which no copy is known to have survived. It likely was written by Robert Mullikin the editor and only exists because it was reprinted nine years later in the April 11, 1883 issue of the *Trappe Enterprise*, Trappe's second newspaper, of which only one copy has survived. History hangs by a thread sometimes.” - James Dawson

The following, which may be of interest to the readers of the “Enterprise,” is taken from “The Index” of April 15th, 1874, a paper formerly published in Trappe.

Trappe.

The village of Trappe, was located more than a century ago, most probably by a French refugee, whose love for the Monks of La Trappe, induced him to appropriate the name to his residence in the new world. Tradition tells us that a widow lady of French notoriety, many years ago, kept a tavern in the only house in our town, for the accommodation of travelers going down and returning from the end of the Peninsula, and, as this was in the line of thoroughfare in those days, many of them were trapped, and induced to spend their money with the good woman. This was long before steamboats and railroads had diverted the line of travel in another direction.

Our town is located in the center of a neck of land, made by a bend in the Choptank river. The river can be reached south, west and east of us by a ride of five miles. The country around is level and productive, with beautiful locations and residences on the Choptank and the many tributaries thereto. An

act of incorporation was granted us by the legislature in 1856, since that time our enterprising town commissioners have greatly improved the appearance of the town, in widening and shelling the streets. Our population is about 260 with taxable property amounting to \$150,000, on which, to defray expenses a town tax of 15 cents on the \$100 is levied. Our churches are five in number with a capacity to seat 1500 persons. M. E. Church, built in 1803 will seat 300; M. P. Church, built in 1844 will seat 200; Prot. Episcopal Church built in 1858 will seat 350; M. E. Church South, built in 1866 will seat 400, and the M. E. Church, colored, built in 1873, will seat 250. The business of the town is carried on by 8 dry goods and grocery stores, one hardware store, one Drug store, three Physicians, three Shoe shops, one Blacksmith, two Tailors, two Wheelwright and Cabinet shops, one steam Saw Mill one Barber shop, one Butcher, one Auctioneer, and one canning house in prospect. We have a magistrate, two Constables and a Bailiff to keep us in subjection to the civil law.

For the education of our children we have a high school and a primary school, conducted by competent teachers.