

# CAMP HILDALE

## Celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Octoraro Lodge

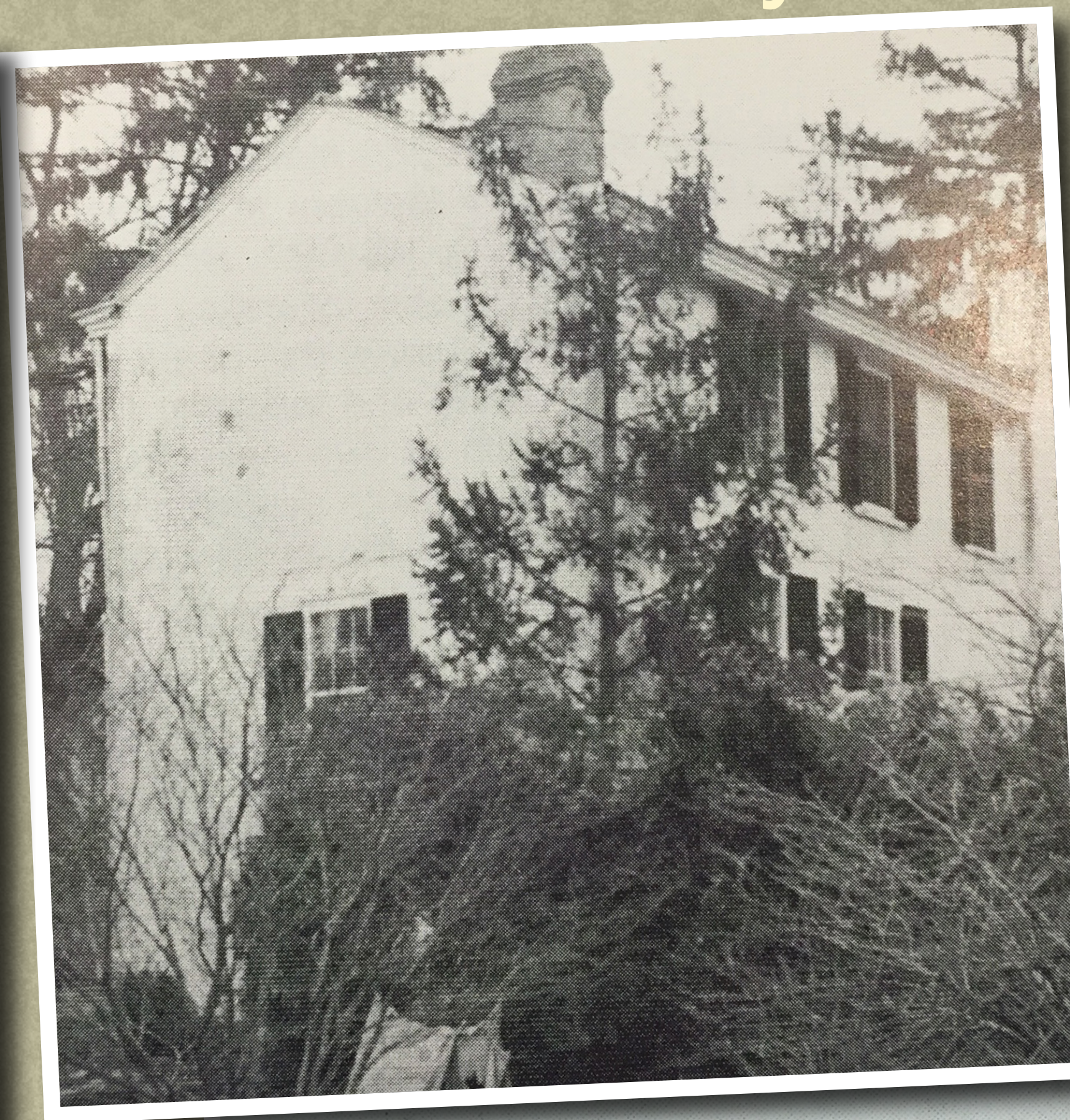
The beginnings of Hilldale date back nearly two centuries when the Taylor family opened a grist and saw mill on a fifteen acre island in the Brandywine Creek. The grist mill was soon converted to a small barn and a large four story stone cotton factory was built. In 1850, the cotton factory was converted to a paper mill that specialized in the production of roofing, wrapping and other paper goods. Due to a number of difficult factors, the mill closed in 1889. Hilldale became a deserted village with many of the buildings left in ruin. The stone mill was torn down in 1911 and much of the stone was moved downstream for the construction of the bridge at Lenape.

In preparation for the 1926 season at Camp Rothrock, the charter for Lodge #22 was approved on May 17, 1926. A charter group of nine brothers gathered on the banks of the Brandywine Creek, west of the County seat at the site of the Old Hilldale Paper Mill to be inducted by our Founder, Dr. E. Urner Goodman and a ceremonial degree team from Ranachqua Lodge #4 from the Bronx. They were conferred both the First (Ordeal) and Second (Brotherhood) degrees at this ceremony at Hilldale.

Hilldale opened for camping in 1926 to serve as a weekend campsite for the troops of Chester County Council. It was a place for the troops to practice their outdoor skills of hiking, packing, and overnight camping. Hilldale remained an important part of the Council's promotion of the camping program and was used by the troops of Chester County until 1928. Hilldale was closed for camping upon the opening of Camp Horseshoe.

Little remains of Hilldale today. Only the Mill Superintendent's Cottage and the crumbling banks of Paper Mill Island are all that is left of this once important piece of our pre-Horseshoe past.

Join us as we celebrate our humble beginnings on the banks where Dr. Goodman stood 90 years ago, the site where our first nine brothers took the obligation of the Wimachtendienk, to join in rededication of the principles of cheerful service on the banks where the oath was first administered and to remember those Brothers who began the legacy of Octoraro Lodge #22.



**Join Us May 22, 2016!**  
**Visit [www.octoraro22.org](http://www.octoraro22.org)**  
**for more information!**

