LETTER No. 1

475 Highland Ave.
Kutztown, Pa. I9530
Dec. 2nd, 66.

Dear Mrs. Hottenstein:
Sorry I did not get to answer your letters sooner. I am still looking for any writtings on the DeTurk ancestry. I don't remember does the publication of the Huguenot Society mention anything relative to the DeTurk House but I am going over earlier issues, I have them to I942.

Regarding the addition on the left side of the house-- I visited the ~~I~~1767 house as early as I905 and there was then no indication of there having been anything added to what is now standing. Re. the tiles-The owner of the property at that time, Martin DeTurk (?) told me that owing to the condition of the rafters the tiles were taken off. I don't remember what material was then used to re-roof the building. This was about I905- 07. Any remembrance I have of the house is at about this period.

Looking by the eaves of the spring house, picture Hist. Soc. Rev, you will see a roof. This I insist is the shelter over the cider press. I remember a cousin of mine, William R. DeTurk, whose judgment I greatly respect and who is not given to exaggeration says the beam was 25 tO 30 feet long and 20 to 24 inches ~~thick~~ SQUARE. He says the last use was as a shelter for geese.

I have the original family registers of John & Deborah DeTurk and there is no mention of the date of ~~Deborah Hoch DeTurk~~ MARIA WIFE OF ISAAC is death.

There is a custom among the Amish & Menonites that when the senior of the family retires he will move into another house and give the main house to the son who is taking over the farm and has a growing family. I mention as a possibility that John & Deborah built the I767 house for that reason. I have no evidence to support this.

Why did the pioneer choose the Oley Valley to settle? Johnannes Keim was married to a sister of Maria DeHarcourt DeTurk. Johnannes Keim settled in the Oley Valley in I707. Was this the infulence that brought Isaac DeTurk to Oley Valley?

From transactions of the Moravian Historical Society--I876,--
" The succession in the ministry between Eschenbach's recall, toward the close of I742, and the date of the following register, was this: Henry Antes and Jacob Kohn in I743 -- Abraham M. Meinung in I744-- John W. Michler from I745 to '48 -- Richard Utley in I749 and '50 -- John C. Franke in I75I-- John W. Michler in I752, and John Schneider in I753."

" During their occupation in Oley the Moravians erected two dwellings on land donated to them by John deTurck. The first was completed and occupied in I745. The second was completed in I748, and thereupon occupied for upwards of three years by a flourishing boarding-school,into which were incorporated the Moravian schools from Germantown and Frederic township. This building was recently standing".

There follow lists of members of the Moravian Church in Oley April, I753 and there is no mention of a DeTurk

From Moravian History, I888, p. 97&98.
" Pursuant to the invitstion a considerably number of delagates of different denominations assembled at Germantown at the house of Theobald Endt, on January I2, I742 (New Year's day of old style). The minures or summary results of these meetings are extant in print, though the numbers is nowhere mentioned; but more then fifty persons are named as taking an active part in these deliberations". In the list following is mentioned " Mennonite John DeTurk (Oley)".

p. II6 mention is made of a piece of ground donated by John DeTurk for a new church.

Moravian History I876, p. 400. " During their occupation in Oley the Moravians erected two dwellings on land donated to them by John DeTurk. The first was completed and ovccupied early in I745. The second was completed in I748, and thereupon occupied for upwards of three years by a flourshing boarding-school, into which were incorporated the Moravian achools from Germantown and Frederic Township".

Feb. I2th-
After the above was writen I find you have visited the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem and may have found this information.

Regard ng the tile roof-- After seeing the pile of tile in the cellar of the DeTurk House I hunted the then owner and got permission totake several tiles along. I
I think the owner was Dr. Martin DeTurk.
William R. DeTurk, a cousin, without any suggestion from me said he remembers having been told that the original roof was tile.

John D. DeTurk, who was born and raised on the old homestead said the addition to the main farm house was built for the use of an unmarried brother and sister of his father. Amos and possibly Sarah. 1944

I have several copies of "Keim and Allied Families" published in I899 and later. In the ones I have there is no mention made of the DeTurk House but if the Historical Society has a complete set there may be something about the house.

Cordially Yours

Lawrence A. DeTurk

P.S after reading the earlier part of this letter I find I have repeated some things - Better Twice than not at all

J A D

FEB 13. LOOKING THROUGH DETURK HISTORY I FIND I AM ALSO REPEATING MATERIAL ALREADY PUBLISHED.