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Local Hockessin-Area Historians: In the 19th century, there was limited interest in local history from the 17th and 18th centuries. In fact it was not before the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 that antique furniture generated much interest, when reproduction “antiques” from the Colonial period were shown and admired. It was known that the Hockessin area was settled by Quakers, who still comprised a large part of the local population until the end of the 19th century, but no one really knew wherefrom the name *Hockessin* came.

In Thomas Scharf's *History of Delaware*, published in 1888, a first attempt was made to address local history. Lenni-Lenape Indian lore was mentioned, as well as the encampment of British troops on the grounds of Hockessin Friends Meeting House prior to the Battle of the Brandywine in September 1777. In 1933, Elsie (Mrs. Herman) McVaugh, who lived in one of two mid-19th-century houses with mansard roofs on Meeting House Road, wrote an informal history of Hockessin for the Waverly Club, of which she was a member.

Dr. John A. Munroe, longtime head of the History Department at the University of Delaware, taught a required undergraduate course in Delaware history, in which he covered all sections of the state. The famed survey of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in the 1760s was commissioned to settle the longtime border dispute between William Penn and his heirs and several generations of the Calvert family, all called Lord Baltimore, separating Maryland from Pennsylvania. The three lower counties of Pennsylvania along the Delaware River, which were agitating to become a separate colony, asked Mason and Dixon to survey the 12-mile-radius circle from the Old Court House in New Castle, which has, since 1776, separated Pennsylvania and Delaware. This “circle,” resurveyed about 1892, forms the northwestern boundary of the Auburn Heights Preserve.

C. A. Weslager, who built a new home on Old Public Road between Hockessin and Yorklyn in the 1950s, did massive research of local deeds and the like and subsequently published several small books and monographs on the history of the area. Some of his works pertaining to the Hockessin area were *Delaware's Forgotten Folk*, *The Hollingsworth Plantation in Mill Creek Hundred*, *140 Years Along Old Public Road*, and *The Garrett Snuff Fortune*.

In the 1950s, Joseph R. Lake Jr., still in his teens, and Carol (Mrs. Kenneth) Swayne interviewed many people and compiled historical notes from which they gave illustrated lectures in the community. With the Bicentennial Year (1976) approaching, Joe Lake decided to undertake a much larger project from which came *Hockessin: A Pictorial History*, of which I was one of the editors. All 1,500 books published by the Hockessin-Yorklyn-Corner Ketch Bicentennial Committee were sold by 1978. In 1997, Joe Lake authored a second, improved edition, copies of which may still be available at the Hockessin Public Library.