

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Celebrating 200 Years at the Sign of the Seven Stars

Phoenixville, Pa February 18, 2009 – The historic Seven Stars Inn, located west of Phoenixville on Route 23, is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the naming of the inn.

At the close of 1808, Benjamin Custard was the owner of the property. He petitioned the Court of Quarter Sessions at West Chester to operate a public house at his property “by the Sign of the Seven Stars in the township of Vincent.”

It had already been well known as a public house for many years, and petitions to keep a public house of entertainment there can be found in the Chester County archives, dating back to 1736. No name at all seems to have been recorded for the first 70 years of the inn.

In those days, the taverns were usually operated by an innkeeper who rented the inn from a wealthy landowner. Having no real name, the inns were often referred to simply by the name of the innkeeper. Or, as evidence indicates happened in this case, the local public houses were referred to simply as the Tavern.

Mr. Custard’s petition was the first innkeeper at this location to request permission to do business at the sign of the Seven Stars.

Among the neighbors who signed the petition, which said that Mr. Custard was a suitable person to keep a public house and that there was a necessity for a house of entertainment at that place, were Henry Christman, Connor Miller, Peter Brownback and John Longstreth. These are still familiar names in the area.

“The rich history of the inn is a presence that is almost physical,” says current owner Frank Cacciutti. “Travelers were eating and drinking here when The Continental Army was camped at Valley Forge!

I have owned the Seven Stars Inn for over twenty years, but I still feel like a temporary caretaker. The Inn existed long before I got here, and will be here long after I am gone.

Even our menu is extremely traditional. When guests eat here, they anticipate ordering only the fine cuts of beef, like prime rib and filet mignon. Our patrons are simply not interested in ordering the cost-cutting, modern and fashionable lesser cuts like hanger and flat iron steaks, and short ribs. Similarly, we serve only the most luxurious seafood, like cold-water lobster tails, and jumbo lump crabmeat. We still serve only local, natured veal raised here in Montgomery County. And of course, we could never, ever skimp on our famous, generous portion sizes.

My job is to uphold the traditions that have been passed on throughout the generations, and to respect and maintain our fine heritage here.”

Mr. Cacciutti even refers to he and his staff as being somewhat “historical”. Michael Bolognese has been General Manager for over twenty years, and Assistant manager Irene Egolf, Chef Michael Walters and many of the guest servers have worked there even longer!

Remarkably, the Seven Stars Inn is still a landmark area restaurant after more than two centuries. The inn is located on Route 23, four miles west of Phoenixville and is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Major credit cards are accepted, and reservations are suggested. 610-495-5205.