

Men and Things

Germantown House, Once the Property of Christopher Sower, Is More Distinctively the Memorial of Jacob Bay, Type-Founder, Who Within Its Walls Cast the First Movable Type for Printing Made in America

JACOB BAY, a name almost forgotten in the familiar legend of the primacy of old Philadelphia in printing enterprise in this country, is re-introduced by Edward W. Hocker, the Germantown historian, in correspondence suggested by the recent abandonment of the old house at the southwest corner of Germantown avenue and Queen lane by the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, of which institution it has been the parsonage for almost a century. Encroachment of commercial activities and the increasing disturbance of street traffic brought about the removal of the pastor, the Rev. H. F. Baugham, and his family to 3123 W. Queen lane.

Philadelphia had a prominent part in the development of type-founding industry in America, just as it had in the development of the fine art of printing; and Mr. Hocker's careful search has resulted in a chapter which deserves a place in the annals of typography. Jacob Bay's undertakings were linked with the enterprise of Christopher Sower, the Bible printer, and the second Christopher once owned this particular house. But the Sower family never occupied it, and Bay, who was the tenant, until he bought the property at its sale by the Government, was the real type founder.

Mr. Hocker writes:

In this house the first successful effort in America was made to cast printers' type. The property was one of those belonging to Christopher Sower, printer, which was seized and sold at the time of the Revolution because Sower refused to subscribe allegiance to the new American Government. Trinity Church bought the house and adjoining land when the congregation was founded, in 1836, as the English Lutheran Church of Germantown. The church was built and a burial ground laid out, and in the house the pastors have since lived, the longest occupancy having been that of the Rev. Dr. Luther E. Albert. He began his pastorate in 1854, and served actively for 52 years, and four years longer as pastor emeritus, up to the time of his death.

Because Christopher Sower once owned this house, some curiously distorted accounts have been printed to the effect that the Sower Bible of 1743, the first Bible printed in America in any European language, was produced here. However, it was long after 1743 when the second Christopher Sower bought the house. It was one of nearly a score of properties he owned in and about Germantown. There is nothing to show that any of the Sower family ever lived here. The Sower homestead, at the rear of which was their printing establishment, was situated nearby, but on the opposite side of Germantown avenue. The house was removed about 1860.

That the first casting of type was undertaken in the old parsonage, may be amply verified, though in that connection there have also been curious distortions. The man who deserves recognition for making the first type in America has hitherto been overlooked. Pictures have been printed of a

when no springhouse was available.

When Bay bought the property at public sale, in 1779, he paid \$4,200 for it. The lot measured about 100 by 550 feet. Bay retained ownership four years, selling the place in 1783 to "Jacob Fralley, practitioner of physick." He received \$428 10 shillings. At first glance it looks as though this had been a most unprofitable investment for Bay. However, when he bought it he was privileged to make payment in continental currency, which was then worth one-tenth of its face value, or less. When he sold it the Revolution had been successfully terminated, American currency was no longer depreciated, and Bay probably suffered no real loss.

Confiscation of Sower's property and the consequent cessation of the publishing business may have induced Bay to leave Germantown. After 1783 he seems to have lived in Philadelphia. He was one of the hundreds of citizens of the city who fell victim to the yellow fever plague of 1793. In the list of the dead he is described as a typefounder. His body was buried in the grounds of the German Reformed Church, now Franklin Square.

Sower, one of the wealthiest residents of Germantown, was reduced to poverty because his interpretation of the doctrines of the Church of the Brethren, in which he was a bishop, forbade him to attest his loyalty to the new nation. He was arrested and confined a short time. After the loss of his estate he lived in destitution on a farm in Worcester Township where he died in 1784.

In the early years of the 19th century Joseph Bullock dwelt in the former Bay house. He rebuilt and enlarged it. His daughter Rebecca was the first wife of Charles J. Wister, who lived across the street at Grumbethorpe, the noted Wister house, built in 1744 and still owned by the Wister family, though now unoccupied.

Samuel Sower, son of Christopher Sower, who probably assisted Jacob Bay in casting type in Germantown, subsequently established a type foundry in Baltimore. In 1808 he reported he had 17 employes and his establishment was working day and night, one of his orders calling for a font of the smallest type ever cast in America, to be used in New York for printing a Bible.

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That the first casting of type was undertaken in the old parsonage, may be amply verified, though in that connection there have also been curious distortions. The man who deserves recognition for making the first type in America has hitherto been overlooked. Pictures have been printed of a blacksmith's anvil on which it is declared the first type was cast. A piece of moulds for the type delicate work were forged. Moulds for such delicate work as the casting of type, of course, were not forged on a blacksmith's anvil. The anvil in question was used in a blacksmith shop of the neighborhood, and perhaps the legend originated because the smith sometimes did odd jobs for the printers and type-founders.

Often it has been asserted that the Sowers made all the type, paper and ink they needed in their printing establishment, where in colonial times some 200 different books were published, in German and English, besides a newspaper, a magazine and an almanac. But the Sowers never made paper, and the typecasting, though conducted with their support, should be credited to Jacob Bay, a typefounder by trade.

The magazine of the Sowers, which was a religious publication—probably the first religious magazine in America—helps to fix the date when the first type was made. A footnote in a number of the magazine for 1773 explains this issue was printed from the first type ever cast in America. The magazine was distributed without cost to those who wished to receive it, unexpected profits from the second Sower Bible, of 1764, being used to defray the expenses. Christopher Sower felt repugnance at the thought of making money through the sale of the Bible, and hence spent the proceeds in circulating the religious magazine.

In January, 1775, a provincial conference was held in Philadelphia to take steps toward enforcing the recommendations of the Continental Congress, especially with regard to the fostering of home industries and the discouragement of importation. One of the resolutions adopted declared "that as printing types are now being made to a considerable degree of perfection by an ingenious artist in Germantown, it is recommended to the printers to use such types in preference to any

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At this time Jacob Bay was living as a tenant in the house belonging to Sower which later became the parsonage. This fact is mentioned in the inventory made when Sower's estate was confiscated, in 1778. Upon the sale of the property by the Pennsylvania government, Bay bought the house. The deed from the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania to Bay terms him "Jacob Bay, typefounder." The list of goods sold in the Sower printing house includes "a lot of letter moles," bought by Jacob Bay for £3. The "moles" undoubtedly were moulds in which type was cast.

In the early 19th century David Sower, a grandson of Christopher Sower, was publishing the Norristown Herald. Discussing the question of early typesetting in America, he wrote, in 1829: "If we have been correctly informed, the first movable type manufactured in this country was made for Mr. Sower (grandfather of the editor of this paper) by Jacob Bay, a German, who resided in Germantown several years before the American Revolution. The metal was imported by Mr. Sower, and the type was made by Mr. Bay. Some years after Justus Fox commenced the manufacture of German type and continued to follow that business for a number of years."

Justus Fox was Bay's neighbor, on Germantown avenue. He was best known as a manufacturer of lamp-black.

The Germantown typesetting of 1772-3 antedated by 24 years the establishment of Binney & Ronaldson's type foundry, in Philadelphia, which is usually regarded as the pioneer in this industry.

The late Dr. Julius F. Sachse, the historian, who credited Sower's sons with the making of the Germantown type, searched the cellar of the old parsonage some 40 years ago, and reported that fragments of metal were found. The massive walls of the house's foundations seem much heavier than is needful for a two-story structure such as this is. In the walls are queer niches and arches. Similar construction may be seen in some other very old houses of Pennsylvania. In the niches in the walls food was stored.

Pioneer Enterprise

160 Years Ago

The Old Germantown Water Company

By Edward B. Phillips

There walked into the office of the writer a few days ago a youth of seventy-five years who proved by unimpeachable evidence that he was Robert Firth, of Hansberry street. One of the bits of evidence produced was a season ticket issued to him by the Philadelphia & Reading R. R. in 1873 which entitled him to ride between Philadelphia and Germantown as he wished, for which he paid twelve dollars. That was 59 years ago.

That was not what he came into the office to show the writer but a well preserved agreement between his father and the Germantown Water Company, neatly written in 1854. For the benefit of the old timers of Germantown we reproduce it here:

Agreement between Elias M. Firth of the City of Philadelphia, Plumber, and the Germantown Water Company.

Said Firth agrees to give his whole time and attention to the carrying on and executing such plumber's work as the said company may have to do, under the supervision and control of B. Botter, secretary of said company, and so long as the said Firth shall faithfully and satisfactorily execute his part of said agreement, the said company agree to pay him therefore, seven per cent. on the gross receipts of their said plumbing business guaranteeing that said percentage shall be equal to Eight Hundred Dollars per annum at which rate payments shall be made to said Firth monthly.

This agreement to continue from year to year or until either party gives notice at least one week, of his or their desire to bring it to a close and upon such notice being given this agreement shall on the expiration of said week forthwith determine, and said Firth shall forthwith surrender possession of all the property of the company that may be under his control and thereupon said Company shall pay him whatever salary may be coming to him at the rates aforesaid.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties this first day of July, A. D. 1854.

Christopher Fallon, President
E. M. Firth.

Attest:
B. Potter, Secy. Gtn. Water Co.
(Seal)

Unusual Features

Mr. Robert Firth talked interestingly of the property and activities of the Water Company. He told of the Water Works dam that was located north of Walnut lane in the valley through which Paper Mill Run flowed over the site of which Lincoln Drive was built. The dam was in a cove formed by the embankment over which it was planned to run the extension of the Phila., Germantown and Norristown Railroad from the Price Street Station and which was abandoned for the present branch,

Field" and on it various games were played and contests held. Alongside of this field ran a stream known as Tulpehocken Creek named for Chief Tulpehocken, after whom the Tulpehocken Bank is named. Into this stream drained several neighboring springs and part of the "Lava Beds," which later became famous and of which Charlie Pettiford became Mayor. This stream emptied its waters into Paper Mill Run or Crabb Creek.

Mr. Firth also said that pictures of the dam and the standpipe were hanging on the walls of the old Concord library and that George Keyser would be glad to show it to visitors. The picture of the standpipe depicts it as a huge pipe about 15 feet in circumference and fully 125 high. Just how the water was transferred to the Mt. Airy reservoir we have not yet ascertained.

The youthful Mr. Firth also informed us that the Water Company erected pipes alongside of the valuable trees in the neighborhood with openings around the roots of the trees and sprayers on the tops and that when the weather was dry and the trees needed water they would send some one to open the stop-cocks at each tree. As a treeologist the writer was very much interested in this information.

Mr. Firth also imparted the information that the Queen of Spain owned the property on which the standpipe and the dam were located and that the Fallon brothers who were at the head of the Water Company were her agents. The office of the company was located at the southwest corner of Germantown road and Tulpehocken street.

P. S.—The company was organized in 1851 with John C. Fallon as president, his brother Christopher following him in that office. The standpipe was erected August 13, 1852, and pipes were laid in different parts of Germantown the same year. The distributing rights of the company were purchased by the City of Philadelphia in 1866 and the plant was abandoned in 1872 when a new source of supply from Flat Rock dam to Mt. Airy was inaugurated. The standpipe was removed December, 1873.

PIONEER PRINTER KNEW 26 TRADES

Versatility of Christopher Sowers, Germantown Bible Publisher, Shown in Old Letters

COPIES FROM FRANKFORT

Christopher Sowers, of Germantown, who printed there the first American Bible in any European language, had a knowledge of 26 trades and arts.

The versatility of the Germantown printer is further revealed in copies of contemporaneous letters received in Germantown from Germany incidental to the recent observance of Germantown's 250th anniversary. The copies of the letters were forwarded by the Society for Historical and Antiquarian Research in Frankfort-on-the-Main to the Germantown Historical Society.

Francis D. Pastorius, leader of the Germantown pioneers of 1638, came from Frankfort as the agent of the Frankfort Land Company, which had acquired large tracts of land in Germantown and elsewhere in Pennsylvania from William Penn.

Quotations from a letter dated October 6, 1739, and written by an unnamed friend living in Springfield Manor, now Springfield Township, Montgomery county, mention some trades said by historians not to have been in any American accounts of the works performed by Sowers.

The Springfield correspondent lists among the occupations of Sowers:

Doctor of surgery or bloodletting.
Apothecary shop operation.
Clockmaking. Large and small clocks were sold at from 10 to 50 rixdollars. The rixdollar was worth about 5 cents in present United States currency.

Wood turning. His principal product was spinning wheels.

Glazing. Glass was expensive in those days and was set in leaden frames. It required much skill.

Printing. From this he apparently made his principal income.

Manufacture of lampblack for his ink. In reference to that activity, Sowers is quoted as ruminating one night, after he had negotiated with another printer for a secret ink formula: "Here you are, the master of 26 trades and arts, all of which you have learned without an instructor. Should you pay a man now to instruct you in such a simple thing as making ink?"

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This was an interesting spot and the writer recalls witnessing a baptismal ceremony here, when he was a lad, performed by a Colored congregation. Verily it was a cold day. On the eastern banks of the dam was a stone building which housed the two pumping engines that forced the water from the dam to the standpipe on Tulpehocken Hill.

Mr. Firth told of the well in the dam near the eastern shore into which water was filtered and into which two large pipes curved through which the water was pumped. We think it was here that James Glasnevin Scott, who later became Mayor of Little Britain, was in swimming one day and was drawn to the mouth of one of these pipes by suction and only, as a result of the rotundity of his body, was he prevented from being carried through the pipe to the standpipe on the hill and then by some process which we fail to understand thrown into the reservoir on Allen Lane. It will thus be seen that rotundity has its uses.

The Standpipe

The standpipe stood in a field midway between Greene street and Wayne avenue on the south of what is now Tulpehocken street. This field was known as the "Standpipe

trees and spray. When the weather was dry and the trees needed water they would send some one to open the stop-cocks at each tree. As a treeologist the writer was very much interested in this information.

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Evening Bulletin 3/2/1932



A Famous Kidnaping Case of 1874—The home of Christian Ross, in Germantown. Charlie Ross, who was kidnaped and never was found. The house was recently torn down to make room for the Cliveden Presbyterian Church. Pictures from an old print.

Beeline
Oct. 1922



Settlement of Germantown

By DR. NAAMAN H. KEYSER

GERMANTOWN was the first German settlement in America. It was settled by thirteen families from Crefeld and others from the same section of the lower Rhine Valley constituting the French Duchy of Cleves, which later became a part of German Westphalia. By the Treaty of 1918 it is again part of French territory. This section, inhabited by Mennonites and Pietists, was noted for its manufacture of woollens, linens, velvets, soaps, and butter, the growing of corn, tobacco, hemp and flax, and was a haven for those seeking freedom of worship.

Seal of Duchy of Cleves

The Seal of the Duchy of Cleves, reproduced with this article, is interesting, for Crefeld was located in the Duchy of Cleves. The seal was recently discovered in the Library of Congress.



CLEVE-MARK

The totem, seal and crest were used before surnames, as few people then could read and write. All persons who possessed property had a seal and, when knighthood was in flower, the crest of such persons was painted on the shield. As the family increased, crests were added representing the Christian names of the additional children. A copy of the old shield has been found which was taken from an impression of a bronze plate on a grave-stone.

This ancient practice of having seals is still in use today. Every State and great city in the United States have adopted seals. We still treasure the old seal of Germantown. Several ward organizations use it as an escutcheon on their banners and flags, and one of our trust companies has featured it over their doorway and on their checks. In 1903 a new Great Seal of the United States was desired, and the competition among engravers who submitted designs was very keen. The honor of winning fell to the lot

of Max Zeidler. The mention of the name of Max Zeidler is appropriate in connection with this article, as it was he who made the engraving of the Pastorius houses, a copy of which is shown on the cover of this issue of THE BEEHIVE. These houses stood at Germantown Avenue and High Street. The Green Tree Inn, now standing, is easily recognized in the group.

The small house in the center was the original Pastorius house in Germantown and was razed when the corner house was moved to open High Street. Later this was moved the second time to its present location, 25 High Street, now occupied by Dr. John Howard Frick.

It was to the lower Rhine Valley in the Duchy of Cleves that William Penn went to preach the gospel of the New World and to invite those desirous of full religious freedom, and freedom from the exacting taxes of their overlords, to come and settle in Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods). His plea fell on very receptive ears and first took fruit in the formation of a company in Frankfort for the purchase of land in Pennsylvania. Francis Daniel Pastorius, a Pietist, visited Frankfort November, 1682, and was made the agent for that company. He purchased 25,000 acres for them at a cost of less than a shilling an acre. He also was appointed to represent the Crefeld purchasers. The Frankfort company was no doubt formed for speculative purposes, as only two of them (Jacob de Walle and John Jacob Schultz) ever came to America.

The Crefeld company were the old colonists. Pastorius preceded the colonists by about six weeks. Accompanying him were Jacob Shoemaker, from Mentz, George Wertmüller, Isaac Dilbeck, his wife, Marieke, and their two children (Abraham and Jacob), Thomas Gasper, Koenradt Backer (*alias* Rutter) and Frances Simpson, an English maid.

Have Rough Voyage to America

The Crefeld colonists sailed from Deal June 10, 1683, on the ship "America," and after a voyage of hardships from rough sea, and poor and scant food, arrived in Philadelphia August 20, 1683. Pastorius states he had a small hospital on board. He was injured by two carved lions off the ship's bell falling on him during a storm. George Wertmüller had a serious fall. Thomas Gasper had a severe eruption on his body, and the English maid had erysipelas.

The colonists were promised land on a navigable stream. Pastorius would not take the site offered, as he found the land too hilly. He chose a level site farther east, but it was not until the arrival of the Crefelders on the 6th of October (16th new style) that an agreement was made and Penn issued a warrant to Pastorius in behalf of the Frankforters and the Crefelders for 6,000 acres of land for a township. On the 24th of October a town was laid out and given the name of Germantown. Of this Pastorius in a letter says: "The land next to the river is quite hilly and not ill adapted to grape culture, but farther on, it is level and productive. The worst is that it is impossible to pass the falls (Falls of the Schuylkill) and the rocks in a boat."

In all, the Crefelders purchased 18,000 acres, 500 of which was in Germantownship, comprising the towns of Germantown, Cresheim, Sommerhausen and Crefeld, 300 acres in the Liberty

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Philadelphia. On one of the Philadelphia lots at Fourth and Spruce Streets, Pastorius built his house, where he entertained the new arrivals until they built their own shelters. The remainder of the land purchased by the Frankfort company and the Crefelders were surveyed in what are now Montgomery, Bucks and Lancaster Counties.

Henry Frey and Others Preceded Pastorius

Other Germans had preceded Pastorius and his little band. There were some in the Swedish settlement on the Delaware as early as 1643. Jurian Hartsfelder took up three hundred and fifty acres of land in what is now Philadelphia in 1676. Dr. Julius P. Sachse unearthed a letter indicating that a German congregation worshiped near Germantown before the coming of the Crefelders, and Henry Frey was in Philadelphia several years before the coming of Penn. Frey and Hartsfelder and the nine persons who came with Pastorius six weeks before the Crefelders should be accorded the same honors as those who have been commonly considered as the first thirteen families.

Henry Frey, Jacob Schoemacher, Isaac Dilbeck and Koenradt Backer were among the first sixty-four persons living in Germantown who were granted their first naturalization papers in 1691. They then promised faith and allegiance to the King of Great Britain and the Proprietor, William Penn. They were also among the original owners of the land. Jacob Schoemacher owned lot No. 8, towards the Schuylkill, part of which is now occupied by the Quaker Meeting; Jurian Hartsfelder was part owner of lot No. 15, towards the Schuylkill River, where the Saving Fund building now stands. Henry Frey owned lot No. 18, running west from the northwest corner of Walnut Lane and Main Street. Isaac Dilbeck owned lot No. 15, towards Bristol, on which the High School building now stands. By act of Assembly, 1708, these gentlemen, with their sons, who had now grown to legal age, were granted full citizenship. Henry Frey had died, but his sons, John and William, were naturalized. Isaac Dilbeck had a son, Jacob, who is spoken of as the child who accompanied Pastorius. There were altogether eighty-six first settlers granted citizenship. Due honor has never been given these people who preceded the Crefelders.

European Background

About this time Louis XIV of France, angered that there were such a great number of Huguenots, who fled to the Palatinate after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, took advantage of the helpless condition of Germany, began a war of conquest, which again laid waste the Rhine Valley.

News of the success of the Penn colony reached them and thousands, many without means, flocked to the seaports to await transportation. Those without means came as Redemptioners, selling themselves to servitude in America for the passage money.

We read that the German colonists came for conscientious reasons, but the enormous taxation after each war led many of them to the Western Hemisphere. John Dickinson, in his farmer's letters, gives the real reason:

(Continued on Page 6)

"The honest, industrious Germans who are settled in different parts of the continent can inform us that it was this sort of tax that drove them from their native home to our woods." He was speaking against the heavy taxes after the Revolution. Pastorius, with a Pietist's mind, gives as his reason for coming, "To escape the vanities of the Old World and to lead a quiet Christian life."

Hardships of First Winter

On account of the poverty of the first winter, some wanted to call the settlement Armentown. The scarcity of money, lack of carpenters and other skilled workmen caused great suffering. Pastorius wished for half a dozen Tyrolese woodsmen to clear the land. Most of the colonists were linen weavers, and until other workmen came, suffered great hardship.

One of the first industries mentioned besides weaving was brick-making. In Robert Turner's letters we read: "Also Pastorius, the agent for the Frankfort Company, with his Dutch people, are preparing to make bricks next year." Pastorius himself mentioned the existence of a sufficient number of mills, brick kilns and tile-ovens. The house of Arents Klicken, which stood on Main Street where Tulpehocken Street was cut through, was built of Germantown brick, and a tile recovered from it bore the inscription (A K 1692).

There were also good masons. The house built by Heivert Papen, on the corner of Johnson Street, was so well put together it had to be blown down with dynamite. The house now owned by Mr. E. I. H. Howell, and built by John Nice, a silversmith, required several charges of gunpowder in order to open up the south wall in remodeling.

Monument to Colonists in Vernon Park

Room does not suffice to enumerate all the good qualities and virtues of these first settlers. Attempts were made several times to raise money to place a memorial to the founders of the first permanent German settlement in America. As early as 1885 a committee of citizens was formed to collect money for this purpose, but failed in their effort. In 1903 Edwin C. Jellett wrote a pamphlet calling attention to the merits of the colonists and making an appeal for a memorial.

In 1908 the German-American Alliance started to raise \$60,000 to erect a monument to the founders of Germantown. They only succeeded in raising about half that amount. In 1911 an appeal was made to Congress through Hon. J. Hampton Moore for an appropriation of \$30,000 (H. R. 9137). This was afterwards cut down to \$25,000 to correspond to the amount already raised. The Government passed the bill and took charge of the work, and the monument today located in Vernon Park is a memorial to the pioneers of one of the greatest branches of the Nordic race that has added strength and character to America.

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When Victory Slipped From Washington's Grasp

BY HERBERT HOLLIS

In the early morning fog of October 4, 1777, George Washington, with characteristic vigor and decision, attacked the British troops at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The Americans supposedly dispirited by their recent defeat at Brandywine, Howe considered incapable of so bold a stroke.

But General Washington made a night march in order to surprise the enemy. He believed he had succeeded and wrote Congress to that effect, but evidence later obtained from British records makes the complete surprise theory doubtful.

At any rate, the Americans at first seemed headed toward complete victory. Washington and his officers believed the day won, when suddenly the Continentals and accompanying militia were thrown into unexpected confusion. In stead of following up the advantage gained at first, Washington saw his men hastily retreat.

This battle, says the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, was one of the half dozen or so of the Revolutionary conflicts in which General Washington commanded in person. Unfortunately he was denied victory by circumstances over which he had no control. Despite his repulse, however, the great American leader had acted on the offensive and had given Howe sufficient reason to fear for his safety. He once more, as at Trenton and Princeton, showed himself a dangerous adversary, able to strike quickly and with telling effect.

On October 5 Washington wrote to the President of Congress an account of the battle. The attack was determined upon, Washington said, after it was learned that Howe had weakened the post by sending some of his troops to the Delaware. It was arranged to attack Germantown on all sides at once; and the morning of October 4 was fixed as the time.

"We marched about seven o'clock the preceding evening," wrote Washington, "and General Sullivan's advanced party, drawn from Conway's brigade, attacked their picket at Mount Airy or Mr. Allen's house, about sunrise the next morning, which presently gave way; and his main body, consisting of the right wing, following soon, engaged the light infantry and other troops encamped near the picket, which they forced from their ground. Leaving their baggage, they retreated a considerable distance, having previously thrown a party into Mr. Chew's house, who were in a situation not to be easily forced, and had it in their power, from the windows, to give us no small annoyance, and in a great measure to obstruct our advance."

The delay occasioned by the attempt to take this garrison operated, together with

the foggy darkness, to confuse the Americans. The firing at this place led the troops who had passed to believe a change in situation had occurred, and the retreat began.

"The morning was extremely foggy," continued Washington's letter, "which prevented our improving the advantages we gained, so well as we should otherwise have done. This circumstance, by concealing from us the true situation of the enemy obliged us to act with more caution and less expedition than we could have wished; and gave the enemy time to recover from the effects of our first impression; and, what was still more unfortunate, it served to keep our different parties in ignorance of each other's movements and hinder their acting in concert. It also occasioned them to mistake one another for the enemy, which I believe more than anything else contributed to the misfortune that ensued. In the midst of the most promising appearances, when everything gave the most flattering hopes of victory, the troops began suddenly to retreat, and entirely left the field, in spite of every effort that could be made to rally them."

General Knox wrote that Washington, unmindful of danger to himself, rode into the storm of bullets in an effort to rally the fleeing Americans. No one felt the sting of this disappointing defeat as did the Commander-in-Chief.

"Upon the whole," the report concluded, "it may be said that the day was rather unfortunate than injurious. We sustained no material loss of men, and brought off all our artillery, except one piece which was dismantled. The enemy are nothing the better by the event; and our troops, who are not in the least dispirited by it, have gained what all young troops gain by being in actions. . . . I have the pleasure to inform you, that both officers and men behaved with a degree of gallantry that did them the highest honor."

The effect of this startling attack was felt in Europe both in France and England. Great Britain once more had an example of Washington's ability and courage. In France, Vergennes remarked that Washington had accomplished wonders with his practically new army, and it augured well for the ultimate success of the Americans.

9/9/1929

6

Men and Things

Two Years of Historical Research Required to Identify the Names of 56 American Patriots Killed at the Battle of Germantown, One Third of Total Death Roll

IN the series of twelve memorials which have been placed on the Germantown battlefield to mark sites of note in the battle and which are to be dedicated at the 152d anniversary of the battle on Saturday, October 5, there will be one which, it is believed, represents an endeavor never before undertaken with regard to any battle of the American Revolution, an attempt to enroll the names of the men who fell in the battle on the American side so far as they could be compiled after the lapse of a century and a half.

There are memorials at most scenes of Revolutionary conflict that commemorate the dead, but they do not give the names of those whose lives were sacrificed. Usually the inscription is a tribute to the "unknown" dead.

Amidst the stress of warfare in the Revolution little attempt was made to prepare lists of the names of those killed in battle. Official returns merely told the total number killed, wounded and missing. When the enemy remained in possession of the field, as at Germantown in 1777, they buried the dead and were little concerned about marking graves, much less obtaining names. After the battle of Germantown the British impressed citizens of the village into service to dig graves. Through these citizens traditions were handed down as to where some of the Americans were buried, though today no trace remains of the graves, save those in two of Germantown's burial grounds. But even the sympathetic people of Germantown gained little information as to the identity of the soldiers they buried.

At the 150th anniversary of the battle, in 1927, Germantown raised a fund to pay for marking the battle sites. It was thought this could be done in a few months. Two years have been consumed, however, in studying records of the battle, identifying sites, designing and making the markers and arranging for their erection, the work being carried on by a committee of which Dr. I. Pearson Willits is chairman.

The largest of the twelve memorials will be the one bearing the names of the dead on a bronze tablet. The tablet is to be attached to a huge boulder, the gift of Mr. S. Gordon Smyth, of West Conshohocken. Dr. William N. Johnson has permitted the placing of the memorial on the grounds of his historic estate, Upsala, on the west side of Germantown avenue, north of Johnson street, and opposite the Chew house. Upsala has been the home of the Johnson family since the house was built, in 1798. In the battle the American artillery was posted on this ground during its futile bombardment of the Chew house, which a small force of the British had converted into a fortress. In the vicinity of the Chew house occurred one-third of the American casualties, the dead being buried there in trenches.

It was not difficult to obtain the names of nearly all officers killed in the battle, mention of their death being found in contemporary publications and later historical writings. But search for the names of privates was beset with obstacles. The Pennsylvania Archives and similar volumes of other States were searched. Then the

through the efforts of John Fanning Watson, the historian, marks the grave of Nash and three other American officers.

Major John White, volunteer aide on General Sullivan's staff, is one of those buried with Nash. After being wounded, he was able to ride with the retreating army to his former quarters in Worcester township. As the house was filled with wounded, he continued with the army to the Perkiomen region. From the excessive exertion a fever resulted, ending in his death.

Another officer commemorated on the Towamencin Monument is Lieutenant William Smith, of Virginia. At the Chew house he was shot while carrying a flag of truce to demand the surrender of the British.

On the monument also appears the name of "Colonel Boyd" as one of those buried there. Historians have been unable to identify him, as there was no Colonel Boyd in the action at Germantown. Mr. Jacob S. Allen, former president of the North Carolina Society of Pennsylvania, and a descendant of Captain Allen, of Nash's brigade, suggests this may have been Surgeon Hugh Boyd, of the Fourth North Carolina Regiment, who entered the service in 1776, but who never returned from the army and whose fate is a mystery so far as records show.

Major Witherspoon, Nash's aide, was buried near where he fell, in Germantown. He was a son of the celebrated Presbyterian divine, Dr. John Witherspoon, president of Princeton College, member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Relatives came to Germantown after the battle and had the body removed from the original grave to the grounds of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, a few hundred feet from where he met death.

North Carolina's Colonel Edward Buncombe, commander of that State's Fifth Regiment, was wounded at Germantown and fell into the hands of the British. He died in November while a prisoner in Philadelphia. In 1791 North Carolina named a county for Buncombe. Years afterward Buncombe county was represented in Congress by a member much given to long-winded oratory. Thus it came about that any prolix and blustering speaker was said to be "speaking for Buncombe," and eventually the term "Buncombe," now shortened to "bunk," became synonymous for boastful vaporings.

In the Upper Burial Ground of Germantown, Germantown avenue, north of Washington lane, are the graves of three officers and six privates of the American army who were killed in the fighting thereabouts. Again North Carolina is represented by two of the officers — Lieutenant Colonel Henry Irwin, of the Fifth North Carolina Regiment, and Captain Jacob Turner, of the Third North Carolina. The other officer buried here is First Lieutenant Thomas Lucas, adjutant of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment. That regiment, which had suffered severely at Brandywine three weeks before Germantown, was commanded by Colonel Richard Humpton, of Chester county.

Besides Witherspoon and White, a third aide to a commanding officer died from wounds received at Germantown. He was Major Edward Sherburne, of New Hampshire, on the staff of General Sullivan. Like Nash, he was carried to the Perkiomen region, where he died the day after the battle. Governor Pennypacker erected a stone in his honor on his grounds near Schwenksville.

Captain Thomas Holland, adjutant of the Delaware regiment, is one of the battle's dead whose burial place is not now known. Suffering from a grievous wound, Holland was placed in the home of a Quaker family in the

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Like all other records in the department of the Adjutant General, in Washington, those that have been preserved since the Revolution are carefully protected. But existing papers of the lesser units of the army in 1777 are scant. Though they are indexed according to the names of the men, it was necessary, in order to learn what mention was made of losses in the battle of Germantown, to hunt through all the regimental records. Officials of the Adjutant General's office were much interested in the effort and said they knew of no similar search ever made pertaining to other Revolutionary battles.

Company muster rolls, turned in monthly, proved the best source of information. In many instances, however, these noted only the number killed, without giving names. If the company commander happened to have a regard for detail he would enter the names of those killed.

Fifty-six Patriots identified Some of the best records found were those of General Peter Muhlenberg's Virginia brigade, every company return bearing the indorsement, "P. Muhlenberg, Brigadier." Undoubtedly Muhlenberg's own thoroughness was reflected in these documents.

As finally compiled the list of identified American soldiers killed at Germantown totals 56. The number of American dead as given in the reports is 152-122 "men" and 30 officers.

The names of twenty-nine commissioned officers and five non-commissioned officers are in the list prepared for the memorial. Besides the names of four sergeants and a corporal, who no doubt were among the 122 "men" returned as having been killed, the list for the tablet includes the names of twenty-two privates.

Nine States are represented in the list of the known dead, and there also is one man not assigned to any State. Fourteen of those listed are from New Jersey and a like number from Virginia. Pennsylvania is represented by twelve; seven are from North Carolina, three from Connecticut, two from Delaware and one each from Maryland, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The heaviest loss in any one regiment, so far as this list shows, was in the First New Jersey, in which there were six deaths. The Fourth New

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Captain Thomas Holland, adjutant of the Delaware regiment, is one of the battle's dead whose burial place is not now known. Suffering from a grievous wound, Holland was placed in the home of a Quaker family in the Whitemarsh region. British officers with the troops that pursued the Americans visited the house and recognized Holland, he having been a captain in the British army before coming to America. Later Holland was removed to the American camp, where he died.

Germantown's endeavor to compile the list of the battle's dead has suggested the query why similar research should not be undertaken to learn the names of the men who perished at Valley Forge. Two monuments at Valley Forge commemorate the "unknown" dead of that winter camp. Many of them could be identified through the old muster rolls in Washington.

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The heaviest loss in any one regiment, so far as this list shows, was in the First New Jersey, in which there were six deaths. The Fourth New Jersey lost five and the First Virginia five.

Three of the highest American officers killed were North Carolina men—Brigadier General Francis Nash, Colonel Edward Buncombe and Lieutenant Colonel Henry Irwin.

Nash was leading the reserves into action when a spent cannon ball struck him on Germantown avenue, near Sharpnack street. The same ball also killed Nash's aide, Major James Witherspoon, of New Jersey. On a litter of poles, Nash, mortally wounded, was carried along with the army on its retreat after the battle, first to the Perkiomen Valley and then a few days later to Towamencin Township, along Skippack pike, north of Kulpsville. There he died and was buried on October 9 in the grounds of the Towamencin Mennonite Meeting House.

Nash was North Carolina's outstanding Revolutionary hero. For many years when residents of that State came to Germantown they would inquire in vain for his burial place. Even when they knew it was at Towamencin Meeting House, they could find no one in Germantown who had ever heard of Towamencin. In recent years, through the Burial Place North Carolina Society of General of Pennsylvania, information about Nash's grave has been disseminated, and representatives of North Carolina have made pilgrimages to Towamencin. They were pleased to note that the Mennonites, notwithstanding their opposition to warfare, keep the surroundings of Nash's grave sightly. A marble shaft, erected in 1844

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Inquirer 10/5/1930

FIND RARE COINS IN WALL OF OLD PHILA. MANSION

Historical Mackinett Home in Germantown Reveals Hoard of Ancient Money

Pre-Revolution House Where Washington and Lafayette Were Guests Being Moved for Church Building

The walls of an old house in Germantown, built long before the Revolution and famous in history as the home of Daniel Mackinett where Washington and Lafayette were entertained and where the oldest school in Germantown was organized, were revealed yesterday as a cache for a hoard of ancient British and American coins, when workmen began the difficult operation of moving the building to a new location.

Undisturbed for upward of two centuries, coppers and silver pieces were taken from the building at 8019 Germantown avenue, known in Colonial times as the "Green Tree Inn" and occupied in recent years as an office and parish house by the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Germantown. They showed but little corrosion and were apparently almost as bright and shiny as they must have been when hidden away.

The church is building a new chapel, Sunday school and parish building on Germantown avenue north of High street, next to the edifice now on the corner at a cost of approximately \$250,000, and in order to carry out this programme additional space was needed. So rather than destroy the old landmark the trustees purchased and demolished the buildings at 6021 and 6022 and now the former inn is to be removed to the site of these. Friday a permit was granted and yesterday work was commenced.

Coins Buried in Plaster

Discovery of the hoard was made by Vincent Mercaldo, in charge of excavating and stone masonry work, and

W. A. Lowrie, superintendent for the contractors who are erecting the new group of buildings. Some of the coppers and silver pieces were found loose between stones and mortar and others were found buried in a plaster partition, according to Mercaldo.

Among the rare sizes are several large coppers of 1738, with the head of George 2d. English King, on one side and the figure of Britannia on the other. The head and figure are accompanied, respectively, by the inscriptions "Georgius II Rex," and "Britannia." Another interesting coin is an old American half-dollar. This has the eagle on one side and the Goddess of Liberty on the other, but is quite different from those now in use.

There was also discovered a large quantity of ancient handwrought nails. These were likewise hidden away in the walls. For this reason it is believed that most of the coins were buried at the time the house was built, in 1748, which was 182 years ago. Others, however, must have been secreted at a later date, for the American half-dollar was minted in 1826. It has thirteen stars, representing the original thirteen States, in addition to the other emblems.

Surprised at the find, Mercaldo and Lowrie at first thought that possibly they had discovered a miser's hoard, but when they found the nails, they felt more inclined to believe that the coins were buried in the walls for the same reason that newspapers, money and other souvenirs are often placed in a cornerstone.

Handmade Hinges

The building which hid the secret treasure during all these years is a two-and-one-half story Colonial structure, with sloping red tin roof, dormer windows and green and white shutters, swinging on heavy handmade iron hinges. It is of stone construction and the walls are from twenty to twenty-four inches thick. Near the eaves of the roof, on the southeastern wall, is the date, 1748, when it was built.

Apart from the role it had in the Revolution and in later years, the landmark is well known for the part it played in the establishing of the public school of Germantown, which took place at an even earlier date.

Here on December 6, 1759, was organized the Germantown Academy, when a group of prominent citizens met in the building and mapped out plans for a new school. A tablet placed on the front of the ancient structure by undergraduates of that institution of learning and the Site and Relic Society of Germantown, December 6, 1900, tells briefly the history.

Tradition has it that many years after the Revolution the slipper of Martha Washington was found when the floor caved in. She is supposed to have lost it while attending a ball in the house. Inasmuch as General Washington and Martha, his wife, were frequently entertained there while they were in Philadelphia, the story may be more than just a fanciful belief.

Record 1/25/1932

MISS MORRIS DIES AT CHESTNUT HILL

Member of Phila. Family Famous Since Pre-Revolutionary Days.

Miss Lydia Thompson Morris, member of one of Philadelphia's oldest and most distinguished families, died yesterday at her home, "Compton," Chestnut Hill, after a brief illness.

Miss Morris was the daughter of the late Isaac P. and Rebecca Thompson Morris and sister of the late John T. Morris, a civic and business leader noted for the munificence of his philanthropies.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, at the Morris home, Germantown and Hillcrest aves.

Miss Morris was a member of a family that had occupied a leading place in the social, civic and cultural affairs of Philadelphia since pre-Revolutionary times.

"Compton," the Morris home, is one of the show places of Chestnut Hill. The grounds cover a vast acreage and are graced by a collection of botanical specimens gathered from all parts of the world. This collection is regarded as one of the finest in the United States.

"Cedar Grove," the ancestral home of the family, through the generosity of Miss Morris, was removed to Fairmount Park in 1927 and restored to its original charm. This historic house had stood for nearly 200 years near Harrowgate station, in Frankford. Stone by stone, it was removed to the park and re-erected on Lansdowne drive, near Memorial Hall. It is now a veritable treasure trove for lovers of antiques. Within its walls may be seen furniture from the simple William and Mary type to the elegant examples of Heppelwhite and Sheraton.

Miss Morris was a member of the Colonial Dames of America, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Acorn, Philadelphia Cricket and Sedgely Clubs.

The Cuyler Civil War Hospital at Old Town Hall

By Edward B. Phillips

The following letter was received a few days ago and is passed on to Germantowners who may be interested.

E. B. Phillips,
81 Church Lane, Germantown.
Dear Mr. Phillips:

Herewith is the little squib of which I spoke to you on election day. The suggestion is given you who is so prominent in these historic matters—and I hope that under your hand the record may be made.

Very Truly,
A. L. Smith.

The Old Town Hall in 1863 . . .

A small boy and his mother were walking past the Town Hall one lovely spring day in 1863, just as they passed the gate on Main street, the little boy pulled his mother to stop, for were not soldiers with guns coming out the front door!

Standing still, the boy and his mother saw a half dozen soldiers with guns at reverse, followed by other soldiers carrying a bier on which was a coffin. The procession slowly advanced along the brick walk toward Main street, until they came to an open grave—the funeral service was said, the body of the soldier was lowered into the grave, the filling was soon done and the firing squad stepped up and fired the salute. The little boy was thrilled—he never has forgotten and he now calls upon the Grand Army of the Republic and the city fathers to record in the re-built Town Hall the names of all those soldiers of the War of the Rebellion who were nursed in the Town Hall which at that time was used as a hospital.

The men of the late war have enrolled the names of their fallen ones in the second floor hall—and lest we forget—the names of the men of the War of Rebellion who were in the hospital in the Town Hall should be enrolled in the hall on the ground floor.

The Grand Army of the Republic, The Historical Society of Germantown, The Germantown Business Men's Association should see to it that this record is made. It is only thirty years from now until the Centennial of these events which tested whether "this Nation under God should have a new birth of freedom, and the government of the people by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Mr. Smith, who lives on East Penn street, is a descendant of James Logan, builder of Stenton, and a chief Justice of the Province of Pennsylvania. It does not seem possible that a man of Mr. Albanus Logan Smith's youthful appearance could have witnessed the scene in 1863 that he describes so graphically.

The following data concerning this hospital was furnished to S. F. Hotchkiss some years ago by Dr. James Darroch, of Germantown.

In the year 1862 the city of Philadelphia offered the Town Hall, of Germantown, to the United States Government for hospital services. Under the influence

of a number of patriotic ladies Dr. Darroch went to Washington and obtained from the Surgeon General an order to the medical Director of this district, and in July of the same year the hospital was organized, with Dr. James Darroch as Surgeon-in-charge, and Drs. J. M. Leedom, W. R. Dunton, T. F. Betton, R. N. Downs, C. R. Prall, W. Darroch, Jr., Horace Y. Evans, John Ashhurst, Jr., and P. D. Keyser, as Assistant Surgeons.

The capacity of the original building being too limited, additions were made which enabled the hospital to accommodate 630 beds. About this time it received the name of Cuyler Hospital in honor of John M. Cuyler, M. D., Medical Director, of U. S. A. The ladies of Germantown continued to take an active interest in the hospital, and through their efforts was established a contribution room from which delicacies were daily supplied to the sick and wounded soldiers. About a year after the organization of the hospital Dr. Darroch resigned, and was followed by Dr. Josiah Curtis, U. S. Volunteers, and subsequently by Dr. H. S. Shell, U. S. A. The hospital continued to receive patients until the end of the War, and served a good purpose in receiving convalescent patients from the field hospital, thus making room for those who needed prompt attention near the battle field. The hospital was closed at the end of the War, and the remaining patients were transferred to the Mower Hospital at Chestnut Hill. (Willow Grove and Stenton avenues.)

A very good picture of the Town Hall with the additions on its south side may be seen opposite page 233 of "Philadelphia in the Civil War" by the late Frank H. Taylor, who very kindly gave the writer a cut of the Mower Hospital.

We presume that such burials as Mr. Smith describes were but temporary ones, the bodies being removed to home burial grounds later, as men from all parts of the Union were patients in this local hospital.

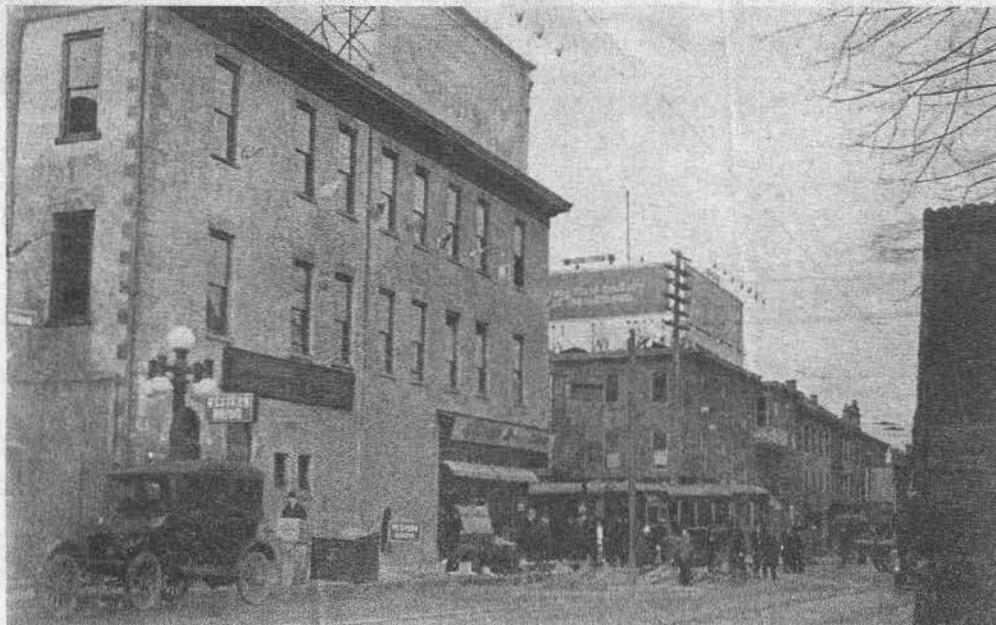
We fail to recall having seen a list of those who were treated at the Cuyler Hospital and rather question whether such a list exists, as thousands must have been inmates of this hospital for a short or longer period during its three years of operation. However, we have written to the War Department at Washington for data.

The records show that fully 2000 sick and wounded soldiers arrived in Philadelphia in one week but owing to the crowded condition of the hospitals in this district, many of them had to be sent to New York City.

Tablets containing the names of those who enlisted in the Union Army for the Civil War from Germantown may be seen around the monument in Market Square.

The names of those who were ministered unto in the Cuyler Hospital are presumably on tablets elsewhere. However the suggestion of Mr. Smith is a commendable one and we shall be glad to render any help possible to make it effective.

Bechere Sept 1927



OLD BUILDINGS AT MAIN STREET AND CHELTEN AVENUE
which have passed to make way for Greater Germantown

Houston Post Honors Henry H. Houston, 2nd

HONMEMBERS of Henry H. Houston, 2nd, Post No. 3, the American Legion, journeying to France in September to attend the Ninth Annual Convention of the American Legion in Paris will conduct an unique ceremony at Suresnes Cemetery. At that place is buried First Lieutenant Henry H. Houston, 2nd, for whom Houston Post is named; son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel F. Houston, of "Druim-Moir," Chestnut Hill. The ceremony will consist of the placing on the grave of a wreath and depositing there some earth from his late home, "Druim-Moir," and some from the grounds of Houston Post, the American Legion.

Henry H. Houston, 2nd, was born in Chestnut Hill, April 5, 1896. After attending Chestnut Hill Academy he was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1916. He immediately enlisted in Battery C, First Pennsylvania Field Artillery, and served with it on the Mexican border until November, 1916. In January, 1917, he sailed for France with Section 12, American Ambulance Service. Being sent at once to the front he was decorated with the Croix de Guerre in April, 1917, for gallantry in action at Verdun. In June, 1917, he graduated from the French Army Transportation School at Meaux and was commissioned a lieutenant in the French army. He resigned his French army commission and returned to the United States and rejoined his old regiment in August, 1917, at Camp Hancock, Ga. He was commissioned a second lieutenant, F. A., and assigned as aide-de-camp to Brigadier General William G. Price, Jr., commanding the 53d Field Artillery Brigade. He sailed for France in May, 1918, and was promoted to first lieutenant in June. On August 18th his brigade entered the Oise-Aisne offensive and on this date, while on his

way to headquarters to report enemy gun emplacements, he was killed by shell fire.

Houston Post's delegation of fifty will also visit Arcis-le-Ponsart, at which place young Houston was killed. Samuel F. Houston, the father, reconstructed this war-torn village as a memorial to his son, and for so doing was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, the presentation being made by President Domergue on July 23d last.

The Post meeting at the Germantown Y. M. C. A., 5849 Germantown Avenue, will be held on Tuesday evening, September 20th, at which time the annual election will take place. It will be interesting also because of the presence of one of America's most prominent naval officers. He is to be the speaker of the evening, his identity being withheld for the present.

An important meeting was held at Houston House, 157 W. Cheltenham Avenue, on Thursday evening, September 8th. The purpose of the meeting was to devise ways and means of improving the Post's trumpet and drum corps, and it is the opinion of those present that much good will result.

Bechere-Sept 1927

History of Logan's Run Rich in Local Tradition

Stream, Now Nearly Forgotten, Once Bordered Important Estates and Sites

By EDWARD B. PHILLIPS

South Germantown is famous for many things, but that which exalted it among its sectional peers was the possession of a stream that had its rise, falls and ending in lower Germantown. Some newcomers will be surprised to read that the "lower end" had such a stream, but it had, and was known in the days of "Auld Lang Syne" as

"Logan's Run"

This stream had its rise in a spring near what is now the yard of 46 East Brighthurst street, the water of which flowed across the rear yard of St. Stephen's M. E. Church and then across Ashmead street in the hollow where now stands a brick mill.

The stream then entered the spacious grounds of Major Phillip R. Freas, founder, owner and editor of the Germantown Telegraph.

The Freas' dwelling which still stands just below Ashmead street, was a stately structure, and here Owen Wister, the writer, was born while his parents were waiting for their new house to be finished just above Brighthurst street. The printing shop stood on Ashmead street near the rear end of the house.

The waters of Logan's Run entered a fish pond at the rear of the house. Townsend Ward, in the Pennsylvania Magazine, said that the stream had its rise in the pond, but he must have been ignorant of the "lower end's" insistence on accuracy when dealing with Smearsburg's affairs, or he would have traced back the stream a little farther.

Major Freas' grounds covered the square from Collom to Ashmead streets and ran back halfway to Wakefield street. From his office window the Major could look out upon the stream and pond amidst a beautiful garden, and why such a beautiful, peaceful outlook should produce such bellicose articles and editorials as come from his pen is an unsolvable puzzle to the writer.

It is said that certain members of the present horticultural society would climb the wall of this garden in quest of pears and fish. Perhaps the Major saw them and then the pot would start to boil and the pen to leak.

A Home Run

After leaving Freas' yard the water ran across Jefferson (Collom) street at a point now the center of a row of three-story brick houses on the south side of the street; thence it flowed towards Dwy's lane (Wister), reaching that old highway at the end of Jones' mill, near Mill's dye house.

We believe it was at this point that the Kunders, who built the old house above Wister street obtained their water for household purposes.

After crossing Dwy's lane the stream entered the Baltzer Naple property that fronted on Germantown road, running across this and the adjoining Jacoby property in a slanting direction till it reached a point now

made a turn toward Germantown road, under which it flowed just a few yards above Mehl (Seymour) street.

The writer resided for a short time in a house on Garfield street that was built over the site of the creek, and when springs were high, water could be detected in the bed of the old stream, which constituted part of the cellar floor.

He also lived in a house on West Seymour street that was built over another section of the run's old course.

The writer is, therefore, justified in calling Logan's Run his home stream or "home run."

St. John's Episcopal Church, at Germantown road and Seymour street, is built over a part of the bed of the stream, and several years ago the wall on the Germantown road front began to sink at the very spot where the water once flowed, and had to be torn out and rebuilt on foundations which were possibly sunk below the bed of the old run.

We should judge that the grade of Germantown road had been raised six or eight feet at this point, for when the water entered the yard of the Royal family, on the opposite side of the road, the stream, as we remember it, was fully that distance (eight feet) below the street level.

Famous Springs

At this point the stream received the overflow from the Royal spring, whose reservoir was built both inside and outside of the cellar wall. This was a teeming spring, not only supplying the house with water, but also the horses and cattle. Water would be carried from this spring to wash out the Royal meat market.

It stands on the west corner of Germantown road and Seymour street.

Shortly after passing this spot the stream was augmented by the waters from the famous spring in Spring Alley, flowing down what is now Royal street. Spring Alley was known as the Capital of Smearsburg, and the old spring was the center of the Capital. Near this spring was the old tinker shop of Freddy Fleckentine, where you could get a pot or pan mended for three cents and holes knocked into them for the same price. His maximum charge for all repair work was three cents, and still there are people who wonder why we sigh for the old times!

Spring Alley

Near the spring, on what is known as Rosit street, was the famous Rosit school building, part of which, we understand, still remains. We wish we were a poet or a literary genius that we might do credit to famous Spring Alley, the home of the brave and the land of the free.

How inadequate is the ability of an amateur to portray the glory, the historic value, of this Capital of Smearsburg! Only a Giles Stafford could do that.

Near the spring, Mrs. Cochran struck a colored brother over the head with a broom as he stood sparring on

the outside of her high garden fence, thinking it was a black cat on top of the fence, that had stolen something from her kitchen. The objection of the Bulletin to the use of lurid language prevents the revelation here of what that colored brother said.

It forbids us from enumerating those who made the alley famous by their achievements and the thrilling events that transpired here. If for no other reason, Logan's Run deserves a write-up for receiving the waters from this historic alley spring.

Near where these two waters united the stream turned south and ran in a slanting direction over the Royal and

Henry properties till it reached what is now Greene and West Logan streets. From this point Greene street runs over the bed of the old stream till it reaches Wayne Junction.

↑
Germantown
Bulletin
9/22/1932

OLD ERA RECALLED BY EX-POLICEMAN

Pensioner, 74, Writes of Bygone
Germantown District in Me-
morial Volume to Wife

GETS PRAISE OF LEADERS

All that Giles S. Stafford says he did was achieve his life's ambition and fulfill a wish of his departed wife. Living quietly in Germantown, after thirty years in the Philadelphia police department, he is rather bewildered at the notice taken of him and mightily pleased.

All he did was to put his memories on paper. All he did, in fact, was to remember Smearsburg and write a history of it.

Today he sits at his home, 507 Brinton street, Germantown, and reads scores of letters from those who have valued his memories of Smearsburg, who, like him, were of Smearsburg and who wrote him because of it.

Leaders Send Thanks

Owen J. Roberts, a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, congratulated him. Thomas S. Gates, president of the University of Pennsylvania, thanked him. Charles S. Calwell, president of the Corn Ex-

Writes of Long Ago



Ledger Photo

GILES S. STAFFORD

Old Era Recalled By ex-Policeman

Continued from Page One

change National Bank and Trust Company, sent his appreciation. Others wrote, their names recalling other things than Smearsburg, to express their interest in his reminiscences.

Published at his own expense, his book is slender. On its red cover, in gold leaf, "Incidents and Reminiscences of Smearsburg, with a Collection of Poems and Verse. By Giles S. Stafford. Illustrated." Within its covers Smearsburg, long a settlement in Germantown, lives again.

Smearsburg long ago went the way

of Dog Town, Beggars Town, Rittenhouse Town, Little Britain and Pottsville. Geographically, it began and ended with vanished names of streets—Jefferson and Main street, east to the Germantown and Chestnut Hill Railroad, southwest to Fishers lane, west to Main street, northwest to Royals Meadow, where Seymour street is now; west to Greene street and north to the beginning.

Noted Names Are Recalled

Its industrial center was Spring alley, the seat of manufactures which helped to conquer a new West.

Spring alley homes housed the families whose names were connected with Germantown industry—"the Allens, Jones, Dalzells," Stafford wrote: "the Wades, Birchalls, Peberdys, Adams, Toons, Harpins, Staffords and others." Roughly, it was the district bounded by Collom street, Germantown avenue, East Logan street and Manheim street today.

There were schools on Spring alley—Prof. Dick's, Charles Collady's, Robert Thomas' at the corner of Roset street and the first public school in Germantown, opened by Jacques Roset in 1800 at what is now 49 Manheim street.

There was an "old curiosity shop"—Frederick Fleckenstein's, at the northwest corner of "Main street" and Spring alley. He was the guardian of the community spring, from which residents for squares around obtained their water, located at the end of his lot—now closed up and obliterated.

Early Days Live Again

These and other memories Stafford relates—the eccentric Count De Mollassis, a French refugee resident of the settlement, who lived opposite the Farmers and Mechanics Hotel. He relates data concerning the first meeting of Friends in Germantown, the first protest against slavery, the beginnings of several now noted institutions. The work closes with some of Stafford's own verse and with documentary evidence concerning in-

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cidents in the history of Smearsburg organizations.

Stafford himself was born in Smearsburg on September 5, 1856. On the route he traveled a few years later, from 1869 until 1872, lived, he says, many families of prominence: the Wisters, Fishers, Hackers, Tolands, Newhalls, Clarks, Strawbridges, Wrights, Blights, Brewsters, Calwells, Prices, Littells and others, upon whose porches he threw the home editions of the newspapers of the period.

He entered the police department June 12, 1890, helped to organize the police pension fund and was for twenty-five years a member of its board of directors. Serving in the Twenty-second District, Park and Lehigh avenues, he rescued a young woman from under the wheels of an express train.

Has Thirty-two-Year Record

One of the largest men on the force he had many a battle with the gangs of the Stifftown of long ago while he was detailed to the railroad station at Germantown Junction. On January 1, 1922, he resigned, after completing thirty-two years in the service.

Stafford is delighted with the notice his book attracted among descendants of the Smearsburg of his memory.

"I was born on Fishers lane, now East Logan street, and so am entitled to call myself a true Smearsburger," wrote Justice Roberts, after he received the book from the publishers.

Stafford has one regret. He wishes he could show those letters to his wife, Mrs. Kate Stafford, who encouraged him to write the book years ago, but never witnessed its beginning. She died last year. Compiling it was his tribute to her.

Bell Which Called Washington To Church Shown in Germantown

Visitors to the three-day celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Germantown next Friday, Saturday and Sunday may see the bell which summoned George Washington to worship while he was President of the United States, the weather-cock which topped the church steeple and told him the direction of the wind as he stood on his front steps every morning to ascertain the state of the weather, and the quaint Dutch angels upon which he could focus his attention when the sermon was dull.

At two different periods Washington lived in Germantown while he was President, both times in what is now known as the Morris House, 5442 Main street, opposite Market Square. In 1793, when yellow fever was prevalent in Philadelphia, Washington and the members of his Cabinet moved to Germantown until the epidemic had somewhat subsided.

He evidently liked it so well in the pleasant suburb that the next summer, during the heated period, he again went to live in Germantown for six weeks, from July 30 to September 20.

During his first occupancy he paid to Colonel Isaac Franks, owner of the property, \$131.56 in rent, which also included Colonel Franks' traveling expenses to and from Bethlehem, the hire of furniture and bedding for the Franks family, the loss of one flat iron valued at a shilling, of one large fork, four plates, three ducks, four fowls, one bushel of potatoes and 100 pounds of hay.

The following year rental was higher, as shown by the following entry in Washington's cash book under date of September 24, 1794: "Isaac Franks in full for house rent, etc., at Germantown, \$201.60."

Attended Reformed Church

While living in Germantown Washington and his family attended the Dutch Reformed Church opposite his residence in Market Square.

Every Sunday morning Washington's house was kept tightly closed until the church bell rang. Then the front door was opened, the shutters thrown back and the President and his family walked down the steps and across the street to the church door.

Although Germantown boasts of scores of historic houses still standing and occupied by descendants of the men who built them, the Market Square Presbyterian Church and the site upon which it stands are among the most interesting and important.

The land was purchased in November, 1732, by a committee of the Dutch Reformed Congregation, which had been meeting in private homes for several years. It continued under the authority of the Amsterdam Classis for a number

of years, when it became a German Reformed.

When it was built a bell cast in Germany in 1725 was put in the steeple. This bell bears the inscription in German: "Gott allein die Ehre," meaning in English, "To God alone the honor." The steeple was surmounted by a weather vane described in the records as of "well-finished iron."

Addition Built in 1762

In 1762 alterations were made and an addition built in the back. At that time an organ was brought from Germany and installed. The angels stood on each side of the organ and attracted a great deal of attention. It is related that the children attending the church thought these angels produced the music which the organ made by blowing through their trumpets.

The first church was torn down in 1833. The bell was purchased by Charles J. Wister, who also obtained possession of the weather-vane. He put it on his chicken house, from which it was later blown down. It was then kept for some years on top of a clock in the old Wister homestead. In 1874 Mr. Wister gave both the bell and the weather vane back to the church, which ever since has cherished them along with the quaint Dutch angels.

The ground upon which the

church stands has never been transferred since it was purchased for church purposes, but the congregation has changed its form of worship three times.

Established first as a Dutch Reformed Church, it subsequently became a German Reformed Church. Then for three years it functioned as an independent church, something like what we know as a community church. Then, on July 1, 1856, the congregation voted to become a Presbyterian Church, in which communion it has been ever since.

THE BEEHIVE

GERMANTOWN, PA.

REGISTERED U. S. PAT. OFFICE

In the Interests of "Germantowners for Germantown." Founded by the First and Foremost of All Germantowners, Francis Daniel Pastorius, in 1696.

Published by FLEU & FETTEROLF, 10 to 16 Harvey Street

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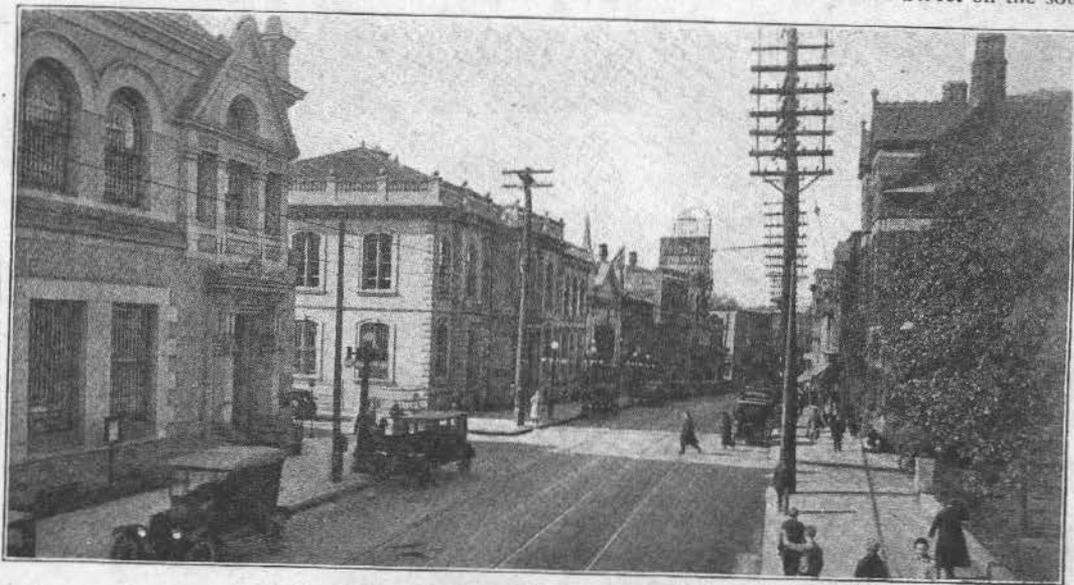
The Great White Way

PART II

By THOMAS G. PARRIS

IN last month's issue of THE BEEHIVE, we endeavored in a cursory rather than an exhaustive manner to bring to mind some interesting facts of the history of our great shopping district, Germantown Avenue. We well appreciate that we did not even scratch the surface with the few facts upon which we touched. As we said then, our chief aim was the awak-

district of our great City of Philadelphia. For briefness, when we relate to this district of our city we shall speak of the "Great Center City." The Great Center City in its extent about embraces the old City of Philadelphia, as founded by William Penn. Thus it extends from Delaware to Schuylkill Rivers and from Vine Street on the north almost to South Street on the south.



Main Street, Looking North From School Lane

ening of the interest of Germantowners in their great center. We do hope that our purpose in thus endeavoring to arouse a just pride in the hearts of our residents had some effect. So with our present endeavor. In the brief space allotted to an article such as this we cannot expect to do more than suggest the reasons for the present greatness and the untold future possibilities of Our Avenue.

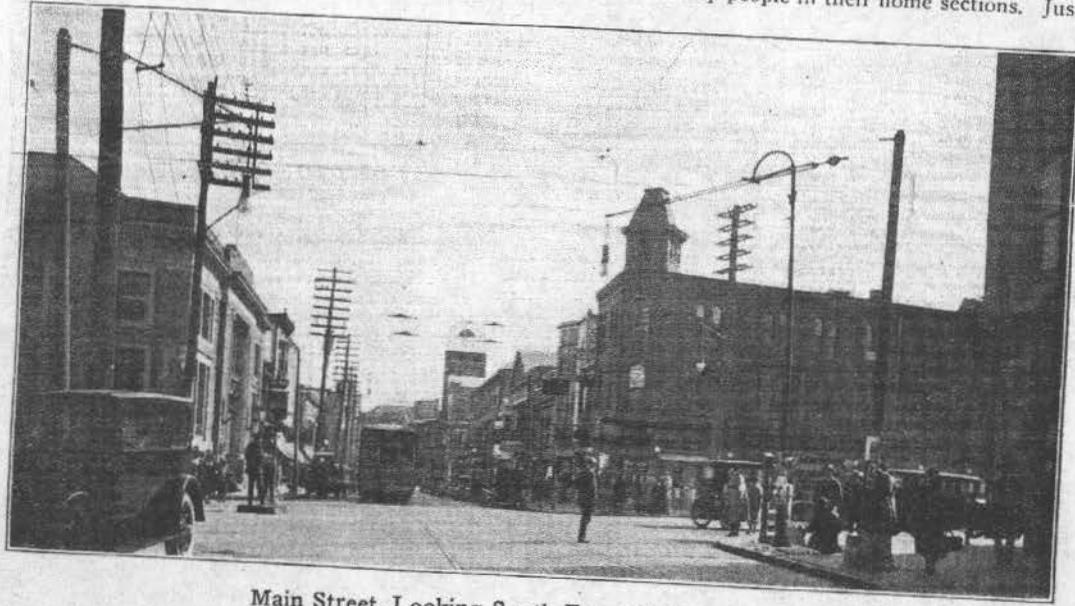
First let us consider a few facts in reference to business districts, and particularly the central

In this space of a few city blocks the volume of business transacted in a day, a month or a year would be hard to compute. The growth of this district as a great business center is most interesting. From the business of the river front, with the stores and commercial houses, which sprang up in the early days about 1700, and the later development of the world-famous financial district, not far removed from the river front, to the great extensive area of today, is a long and interesting story. The different steps were the



natural processes of business expansion. The city's business has expanded within its great financial district and also city-wide to the borders of the great city as we find it today. Within the financial district we cannot take the time to trace the ever-widening area enveloped, but suffice it to draw attention to the great change in the hub of finance that has come to pass during the last ten years. The Down Town money center has gradually moved until today we find it centering in and about Fifteenth and Chestnut Streets. This neighborhood has come to be the Wall Street of Philadelphia.

few industries, moving picture houses, churches, schools, etc., and their retail stores are of a fine grade and transact an immense volume of business. As they meet the needs of many of their residents they have a tendency to keep people in their home sections, and thus help to keep the congestion in the central district at a minimum. At seasons when the people from these and other sections, through advertising of the stores of the Great Center City are enticed to visit the congested area, we get an idea of terrible conditions which would exist if there were no attractions nearby to keep people in their home sections. Just



Main Street, Looking South From Cheltenham Avenue

Subsidiary Business Sections

Coupled with this expansion of the Great Center City, various subsidiary business sections naturally sprang up as the population moved to outlying regions. In our mind's eye we can imagine a trip in an airplane from the Great Center City as a starting point. Flying over Chestnut Street, Market and Arch Streets, our view is one of many buildings, tall and otherwise, and the streets will appear to be used by one continuous stream of trolleys, autos and pedestrians. As we travel afoot in this district it is easy for us to form a picture of our airplane view as we watch traffic at the congested street intersections. From our starting point we proceed to investigate the manner in which our city has naturally distributed its subsidiary business sections in order to spread out the tremendous volume of business transacted. In our imaginative airplane trip we soon note spots of more or less dense street traffic. Flying over Girard Avenue, Columbia Avenue and Susquehanna Avenue to the north; South and Federal Streets and Snyder Avenue to the south and scattered here and there centers such as Point Breeze, North Twenty-second Street, North Twenty-ninth Street, are noticed. In these sections, on account of their nearness to big business we find little business of that character transacted. Most of these sections have at least one bank, a

now, at the Christmas season, when congestion is at a maximum, we appreciate the blessings that have come to pass through the natural tendency to decentralize the business of our city.

Specialized Districts of Three-Mile Limit

As we further study the growth of business and extend the radius of our investigation to a distance of about three miles of the Great Center City, we note a distinct tendency for definite business districts to spring up. These districts are much more important than those sections already noted, which are situated comparatively near the Great Center City. There is considerable more independence of business and other interests in the districts removed about three miles. This is due to the greater distance and inconvenience of travel to and from the Great Center City, but it is mainly due to the cross-town traffic that brings the residents of nearby neighborhoods into the district. Spend a few hours around Broad Street and Erie Avenue, Kensington Avenue and Allegheny Avenue, Fortieth and Market Streets, and other like intersections, and the truth of this statement will be apparent. These districts have well developed industries, ample school, church and theatre facilities; not one, but three or more banks of con-

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THE BEEHIVE

GERMANTOWN, PA.

VOLUME VII

MARCH, 1925

NUMBER 6



GERMANTOWN ACADEMY
OUR FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Carpenter Estate in Bygone Years

I was born on the Carpenter estate, now called Pelham, in the year 1859, at 57 Franklin street, which is now 136 and 138 West Hortter street.

The Carpenter estate was a paradise to me, and for thirteen years it was my playground. In the estate there were six good springs of water; four creeks with minnows, mullets, suckers, small crabs, tadpoles, frogs and lizards in them; two ponds, with gold, silver cat and sunfish and water snakes in them. There were many cedar and juniper trees for Christmas trees.

The food I had for lunch comprised blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, dewberries, sheepberries, elderberries, gooseberries and currants; chestnuts, black walnuts, hickory nuts, honey cherries, black cherries, Mayduke Bull-hart and Indian cherries, pears, early apples, chicken and fox grapes, turnips, rutabaga, cabbage, corn and potatoes.

My sports were making and placing water wheels in the creeks, rolling hoop, marbles, tops, making and shooting bows and arrows, making and flying kites, town ball, base ball, foot ball, shinney, quoit pitching, jumping, running jump, standing jump, casting large stone, wrestling, swimming, fishing, gunning, sledding and skating.

My companions were boys and girls and animals—the rabbit, opossum, gray squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk and flying squirrel; snakes, water, black, copperhead and garter; birds, the cat bird, roffin, swallow, bat pee wee, wren, salad or yellow bird, blue bird, blackbird, crow, humming bird, tomtit, meadow lark, thrush, flicker, owl, oriole, snow bird, hanging bird and woodpecker, with the fields of oats, rye, wheat, clover, timothy, potatoes, turnips, rutabaga, corn and pumpkins.

What is now the northeast corner of Hortter street and Lincoln drive were woods to which numerous picnics came during the summer. With these I had many good times, while my clothing was only a hat, shirt and pants.

Now after reading this do you believe me?

But, alas! my paradise has been wiped out and is no more.

At 223 Pelham road and Phil-Elena streets, there still remains part of a chestnut tree, now covered with vines. From this tree I gathered chestnuts fifty-five years ago. It then had a trunk fifteen to eighteen inches in diameter. It bore the finest of chestnuts, and many of them.

There is also on this property a wooden bridge over a small creek and the spring which feeds this creek had

a dam in it that forced the water up to the Carpenter mansion, on Germantown avenue.

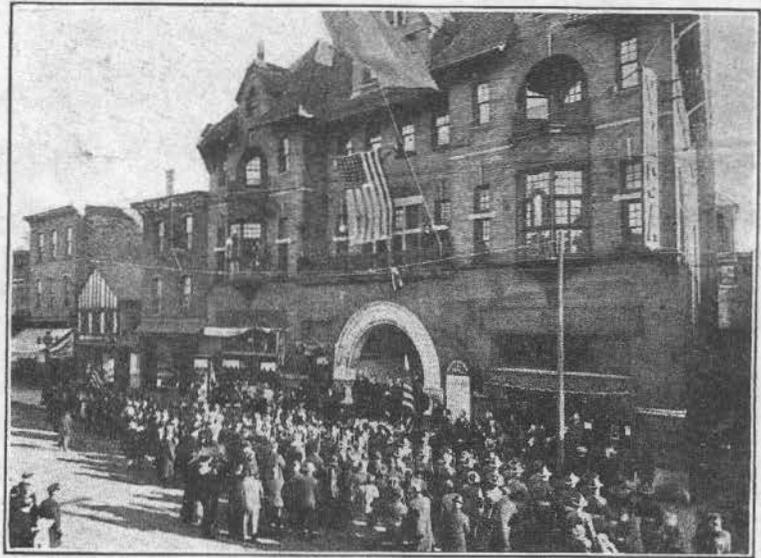
This bridge is part of one of Carpenter's driveways, and over this bridge passed a number of McCallum Carpet Mill employes to and from work each day. The ground on this property southeast of the bridge was a small woods at this time, fifty-five years ago. One winter when the snow had a crust on it I went down this hill between the trees sitting on my sled. At the bottom the snow was drifted and my sled broke through the snow crust and stuck fast and threw me in the air and I landed in the creek. I was good and wet.

I had a good straw bed with plenty of warm covers to sleep on. Oh, how I could eat and sleep! I ate cherries, stones and all. I just lived, not simply existed.

The Carpenter estate extended irregularly from Germantown avenue to Township line, which is now Wisahickon avenue.

MILTON B. TYLER

Beehive 3/1925 (Old B'ldg on Germantown Ave)



The Germantown Y. M. C. A. Building



The Germantown Y. W. C. A. Building

About the

Men and Things

Germantown's Town Clerk Is Sui Generis, Nothing to Do and No Pay for Doing It, But Duly Elected by the People of the Twenty-Second Ward to Honored Title of Many Years' Standing

GERMANTOWN cherishes its traditions and also its Town Clerk. With due respect to the venerable holder of the official title, the office cannot properly be included among the traditions, although its relation to any communal interest is a matter of the past. Next Tuesday, the voters of the Twenty-second ward will elect a Town Clerk, chiefly because they have been doing it for years beyond memory, and incidentally because the Law still says they shall.

Mr. Jacob C. Bockius, who expects to be re-elected because he has held the office for the past eighteen years, and has very nearly acquired title by right of undisputed possession, is over eighty years old. But superannuation was not in the common dictionary in the days before the Consolidation, and civic pensions and retirement funds were unheard of, and so none of these provisions for the extension course in public officeholding were passed on to the City of Philadelphia when Germantown came into the Consolidation with reservations.

At the September primaries no names of candidates appeared on the Republican ballot for the ancient office of Town Clerk. The Democrats had a candidate, Joseph Friel, and it looked as though for the first time in many years the Democrats would name Germantown's Town Clerk. However, the count of the primary vote revealed that 72 voters had written the name of Mr. Bockius on the Republican ballot, while eleven other persons received one vote each for the nomination.

At previous elections Mr. Bockius was usually the unanimous Republican nominee, and sometimes the Democrats also endorsed him. Only once has there been a lively contest for the office. In 1915 Mr. James D. Brooker sought the nomination largely for sentimental reasons, his father having filled the position for a long time. Mr. Brooker won both the Republican and the Democratic nominations. That year the Independent Republicans had a ticket. They named Mr. Bockius for Town Clerk, and he was elected.

No salary is attached to the office of Town Clerk, and virtually no duties. Along with the Germantown Poor Board and the Board of Auditors of the Poor District, the office of Town Clerk was permitted to survive when Germantown was taken into the city of Philadelphia at the consolidation of 1854.

In early days when Germantown was a township the Town Clerk was an important functionary, for he kept the public records. After consolidation and even up to the beginning of the present century the police reported stray horses and cows that were found on the public highways to the Town Clerk and he endeavored to locate their owners.

The record books of Joseph Brooker as Town Clerk of Germantown from 1853 until 1876 contain many an entry like the following for April 7, 1853: "Came to the premises of William Fowler a red-and-white cow with crooked horn. Twenty-five cents paid."

In 1856 Mr. Brooker's list of "estrays" comprised twenty-six cows, seven horses and two steers. In 1863 a goat appeared in the list. For recording such notices and posting them where those whose live stock had disappeared might see them a fee of

25 cents for each cow in Old Years and 50 cents for each Keeper of horse was charged. The Pound Now that horses and cows no longer go astray on the streets of Germantown citizens have sometimes wondered whether the Town Clerk might not exercise the prerogatives of his office by "taking up" motor cars that are parked all day in the business district or all night in residential districts and posting them as "estrays."

The Town Clerk's chief responsibilities in late years have been to care for mail addressed to Germantown officials who do not exist. Correspondents at a distance seeking to trace ancestors who once lived in Germantown often suppose Germantown still is an independent municipality, and they write to the "Mayor," the "clerk of the courts" or the "register of wills" of Germantown. Such letters the postoffice sends to Mr. Bockius.

Germantown had a Clerk as early as 1691, when the municipality was incorporated as a borough by William Penn. For the first two years the Clerk was Paul Wulff. Then Francis Daniel Pastorius, founder of the community, became Clerk. He and Wulff alternated in the office during the greater part of the time that the original borough existed. Records were kept in German, except for 1699, when the Clerk resorted to the use of the Dutch language. The office then resembled that of the Clerk of the Courts rather than the later Town Clerk of the townships.

During that period from 1691 until 1707 Germantown's government exercised most of the powers of a modern county and city. Its Bailiff and four Burgesses constituted a court which not only administered laws but also enacted them. There was a Sheriff, a Coroner, a Recorder, a Tax Receiver and a Constable, and occasionally other officials would be named, such as Roadmaster, Inspector of Hedges and Inspector of Chimneys.

Difficulty was experienced in filling the offices. The Mennonites of the pioneer community had scruples against taking part in political activity, and they were excused, but others were fined when they declined to serve in offices to which they had been chosen. After a time controversy developed between

Penalties Paid for Dodging Duty over taxation. Germantown people were taxed by their own government to maintain roads, build bridges, maintain the prison and stocks and care for the poor. They felt they ought to be exempt from provincial and county taxes. Nevertheless they were required to pay all three taxes. Questions also arose as to the legality of the rather anomalous form of government in Germantown, and finally, in 1707, the Queen's Attorney, George Lawther, directed that Germantown's government cease to function. Germantown acquiesced readily, for thus the tax matter was simplified and official burdens were greatly lessened.

Noting the dissolution of the government, Francis Daniel Pastorius, who had been elected Tax Receiver for 1708, wrote in the tax book that he had received no taxes for the year, and the municipality owed him £2, 14 shillings.

Under the township form of government, which superseded the original borough, the voters of the township, which corresponded in territory to the present Twenty-second Ward, elected Road Supervisors, Overseers of the Poor, Constables and a Town Clerk.

From 1834 until 1840 the Town Clerk was Frederick Axe, who also was Weighmaster of the public scales in Market Square, where farmers bringing grain or other products into Philadelphia could have the weight officially attested. Axe also was the leader of the Germantown Millerites in the forties. He had a store at Market

meetings to prepare for "the end of the world" which they believed to be near at hand.

From 1840 until 1844 the township of Germantown was divided at Washington lane into the Upper and Lower Wards, and during that time each Ward had a Town Clerk.

Once more Germantown became a borough, in 1844. The incorporated district consisted of that part of the township south of Carpenter lane and Gorgas st. The territory north of these streets remained Germantown Township. Thereafter, during the ten years the borough was maintained, the township and the borough each elected a Town Clerk, and in addition the Borough Council of Germantown also appointed its own clerk. When consolidation with the city of Philadelphia came, in 1854, Germantown reverted to its former township status with regard to its Poor Board and Town Clerk, and thus it has since continued.

Germantown also once had a Town Crier. That was when the community was a village under township government, early in the nineteenth century. When street lamps were placed along Main Street, now Germantown avenue, a man was employed to serve as lamp lighter and Town Crier. This man was a dignified looking, heavily built and unusually well educated resident who had fallen into unfortunate habits that prevented his holding a more desirable position. There was a mystery about his past. He never discussed it. Some said his family was of the English nobility, he having proved to be the "black sheep." Another story was that he had formerly been a clergyman of the Church of England. At any rate, tradition says he was a complete success as Town Crier, calling the hours during the night in a voice of remarkable power and pleasing quality.

E. W. HOCKEE.

Square where the Millerites held

Men and Things

One Year of "Dummy" Operation In Germantown Sixty Years Ago Proved Enough For Both the Promoters and the Public

SINCE cars began to run on the streets of Philadelphia there has hardly ever been a time when the operation of these car lines was not beset with problems that enlisted keen public interest. Some of the troubles and controversies, such as the early clashes over Sunday traffic and the later merging of the car systems, made conspicuous chapters in the city's history. Little is on record, however, about an attempt to operate a line of dummies between downtown Philadelphia and Germantown and the long train of agitation and financial disaster involved therein.

Cars running to Frankford were propelled for many years by steam dummies. Dummies also once ran to Germantown but only those who have lived in Germantown since Civil War times are likely to possess any recollection about it.

The question of the Germantown dummies is a facile subject for controversy among those who study Germantown history. It is a question on which the two schools of historians divide. Those who place their reliance upon documentary evidence admit that steam power for Germantown cars was once authorized, but they never found any contemporary record to prove that the dummies were actually used for traffic, and therefore they are disposed to assert that the Germantown dummies never existed. Even the files of Germantown's one newspaper of the time, while they contain criticism of the dummy project in its formative period, make no mention of the consummation of the project. But the historians who do not despise tradition and the recollections of aged people controvert the lack of documentary evidence with the memories of such well known citizens as Mr. Charles H. Weiss, Mr. William C. Wright and others whose veracity cannot be questioned and who not only remember seeing the dummies when they ran on Chelton avenue and Wayne avenue but who also rode on them.

The Germantown dummy line was an outgrowth of the North Philadelphia Plank Road Company, chartered in 1852. Its projectors were mostly citizens of Germantown. Construction of the plank road was begun in 1853. It was fifty feet wide, the roadbed consisting of two tracks of planks separated by a space of twelve feet covered with gravel. The road followed the line of the present Wayne avenue from Tulpehocken street southward to Manheim street, in the lower end of Germantown, then

Plank Road continued west on Manheim street to Pulaski avenue, south on Pulaski avenue, across the Germantown Railroad to Seventeenth street, then called Schuylkill Sixth street. From Seventeenth street the route was over Lamb Tavern road, now obliterated, to Broad street. Toll houses were established at several places, two being in Germantown.

The plank road was opened Saturday, April 29, 1854, and soon became a popular avenue of travel between Philadelphia and Germantown. The route was shorter than by way of the old turnpike on Germantown avenue, and furthermore the new highway was in much better condition for travel than the old road. Hence for some years fashionable folk of Philadelphia sought the plank road for their afternoon drives.

Then in the late fifties came the era

ford. The cars were an enlargement of the old horse cars, with a compartment at the front in which stood a vertical engine, with its boiler. During rush hours regulation horse cars were attached as trailers. Dummies remained in service on the Frankford line until supplanted by trolley cars, in 1893, though in later years they ran south only as far as Cumberland street.

Fearing Wayne avenue was too far west of the populated district of Germantown to attract passengers, the Central Company sought to use Greene street through Germantown, instead of Wayne avenue. The original State charter of the plank road company designated either Greene street or Wayne avenue as the route. But the Germantown Passenger Railway Company, whose tracks were on Germantown avenue, objected to the competition that would ensue if another line were located only one block away. It appealed to court and obtained an injunction which prevented the building of the car line on Greene street.

Changes were made elsewhere in the route. Manheim street and Pulaski avenue were abandoned and the tracks were continued down Wayne avenue below Manheim street, running beneath the Reading Railroad at the present Wayne Junction. Much excavation was necessary in that locality, and the work proceeded slowly. Not until 1865 was it possible to run cars.

The Germantown terminal was on the north side of Chelton avenue, a short distance west of Germantown avenue. There the North Philadelphia Company in 1860 had bought a plot of ground with a frontage of 64 feet from Benjamin L. Langstroth, as a site for a depot. The site now constitutes the eastern end of the property of the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, being used as a parking space for members of the congregation. There was also a downtown depot on Broad street, near Green.

Four dummies were placed on the road. Those who recall them agree that the outstanding recollection concerns the troubles experienced when the dummies tried to make the turn at Chelton and Wayne avenues. As the cars were longer than the ordinary horse cars, the wheels were farther apart. Further-

Initial Year more, the rails at the curve had a flange on the Hardest only one side, just as on the straight track.

Thus three times out of five the dummy would run off the track at the curve. Then every car was provided with crowbars, and on reaching the curve the power would be shut off and the crew would push the car around the bend with crowbars.

Prosperity came to the dummies in no greater measure than to the horse cars of the North Philadelphia Company. The steam cars were operated only about a year. The projected extension to Edge Hill never was consummated. After the dummies were withdrawn no cars ran on Wayne avenue or Chelton avenue until the later years of the nineteenth century.

The deeds for the sale of the Germantown depot site to the North Philadelphia Passenger Railway Company, as well as for subsequent transfers of the property, are in the possession of Mr. Wilson Woods, of Germantown. In them the name of the highway upon which the property fronts is written "Chelton" avenue. Curious to ascertain what authority there is for that orthography, whereas now it is invariably Chelton, Mr. Woods inquired of Mr. John T. Campbell, who is in charge of the Germantown office of the city's Bureau of Surveys. Mr. Campbell produced the ordinance of City Councils of 1855 whereby the name of the highway in question was changed from Market street to "Chelton avenue." Subsequent ordinances extending the street

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Then in the late fifties came the era of street car construction in Philadelphia. In rapid succession, from 1857 until 1859, corporations were chartered to build car lines on the streets of the city. One of these was the Germantown Passenger Railway Company, which, on July 18, 1859, began to run horse cars on Fourth and Eighth streets and Germantown avenue, to the upper part of Germantown.

The officers of the North Philadelphia Plank Road Company succumbed to the prevalent spirit of the times, and decided to build a horse car line on their highway. An act of the Legislature in 1858 authorized the change of the corporation's name to North Philadelphia Passenger Railway Company and accorded it the right to build a car line and also to continue the car line on Broad street south from Lamb Tavern road to connect with the Citizens Passenger Railway at Columbia avenue.

November 1, 1859, the new horse car line was opened. In Germantown, instead of following the plank road up Wayne avenue to Tulpehocken street, the tracks turned east on Chelton avenue, continuing to Germantown avenue to reach the business centre of Germantown.

But it was soon evident that, while the plank road attracted those who drove horses, the car line on the plank road was less fortunate in its appeal for public patronage. Along the route were few dwellings. Nearly all the west side of Germantown, now occupied by high class residences and huge apartment houses, was then open fields. Soon the horse car service was abandoned. Nor was the plank road kept in repair. Drivers sought other roads, complaining that the planks became loose and threatened injury to horses and damage to vehicles, while the rails projected far above the level of the highway. In 1863 citizens petitioned Councils to remove "this unused and decaying road." The Legislature was petitioned to repeal the company's charter.

Civil War times were not conducive to the financing of any endeavor to improve either the roadway or the car line. When the company failed to pay interest on its large mortgage, John

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Besides the North Philadelphia plank road to Germantown, there was also a Germantown plank road in the middle of the nineteenth century. It extended from Mount Airy to Willow Grove, and is now Mount Airy avenue within the city and Easton road beyond the city line.

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Civil War times were not conducive to the financing of any endeavor to improve either the roadway or the car line. When the company failed to pay interest on its large mortgage, John Welsh and William L. Schaffer, trustees under the mortgage, offered the property of the company at public sale at the Merchants' Exchange, December 27, 1862, and it was bought by John Loutey. By an act of the Legislature passed several months later Mr. Loutey was empowered to organize the Central Passenger Railway Company, to take over the franchise of the North Philadelphia Company. Peter Crane was president of the new company, Mr. Loutey treasurer and Lewis J. Crane secretary.

Already in 1861 the Legislature had given the North Philadelphia Company the right to use steam power. This right was transmitted to the new company, which also gained the further privilege of extending the tracks to the northern limits of the city, at Chestnut Hill, as well as westward into the Roxborough region and south on Broad street to Green.

Announcement was made that the Central Company intended to avail itself of steam power and to build the road as far as Edge Hill, to connect there with the North Penn Railroad. Vehement protests ensued from the people of Germantown, who feared the purpose was to run locomotives and trains through their streets.

However, Mr. Loutey and his associates contemplated the use of the steam dummy, and not the powerful railroad locomotive. Before the Germantown road could be rebuilt dummies were put in service in November, 1863, on the Frankford line, from Fourth and Berks streets to Frank-

9/22/1929

REPAIRS SOUGHT FOR VERNON MANOR

Marine Officer Starts Move to Preserve Old Structure

Building in City Park Now Falling to Pieces and Is Uncared For

"The house is falling slowly to pieces. Rain leaks through the roof. The tempest howls through broken windows. The exquisite woodwork rots. Soon all but the stark walls will vanish."

This is the sad state, according to one of its lovers, not of some mean hovel, long since deserted by its meaner occupants, but of one of the finest old manor houses in old Germantown.

"Vernon," once the manor house of John Wister, at Germantown avenue and Rittenhouse street.

Standing in the centre of Vernon Park, the beautiful municipally owned park which extends from Germantown avenue to Greene street, the old home is hardly more than a shuttered sepulchre of its past glories, where beautiful ladies and handsome gentlemen met to step the graceful measures of the dance.

The old structure's present protagonist is Major Louis Estell Fagan, II, U. S. M. C., who pleads with "those in authority to visit this shrine, if only to feast their eyes."

"But I feel sure that they will do more than that," he continues, "once they have come under the spell of this ancient veteran, too inanimate to plead for alms, yet pitifully dependent for life upon their generous care."

"Vernon" is not as old as many of the fine old dwellings which are set, like homely but rare jewels, amid the more modern purlieus of the "city within a city" that once was Pastorius' "village." It is not as old as "Stenton," or "Grumblethorpe," or "Cliveden," or the "Chew House," bearing its honorable scars of the battle, but, like them, it holds something of the beauty and the pride and the timeless gallantry of an epoch in Philadelphia's history that has vanished with the years.

Will Unveil Tablets

Major Fagan, in his protest against the seeming indifference of the city to the condition of "Vernon," points out that "on Friday, October 3, the 152d anniversary of the Battle of Germantown will be especially commemorated by unveiling tablets bearing the names of those patriots who met death in that engagement.

"Ceremonies will commence at 2 P. M. at the Women's Club, Germantown road and Washington here.

"Interest will again focus upon this famous old German township, founded in 1683 by Francis Daniel Pastorius within a year after the coming of Penn to Philadelphia. Many historic houses are stretched from Wayne Junction to Chestnut Hill along Germantown road, the second to be equipped with turnpikes in the United States. Market Square, at School House lane, was the centre of deadly contention during the battle in 1777, and visitors may observe at Vernon Park monuments to the first German settlers and to those men who fought for liberty upon this spot. A fine bronze relief map shows clearly the lay of the land and the initial disposal of the opposing forces.

"In this lovely park, standing back in the midst of great trees of various

financier, philanthropist. At the doorway, facing the old road, stands a life-size bronze statue of this grand old man, beloved by all who knew him. He is clad in the Quaker costume, with rough beaver hat and walking stick.

"This masterpiece was wrought in Italy by Raphael Romanelli and was erected by a pious grandson, the late Jones Wister. The pose is life-like, and the features are exactly copied from a death mask by John Furness. John Wister was the son of Daniel Wister and Lowry Jones, daughter of Owen Jones, of Merion, Treasurer of Pennsylvania and descendant of Doctor Thomas Wynne, who came with Penn to Philadelphia. He was one of many children, amongst them Sally, the diarist; Charles Jones Wister, and William Wynne Wister.

First in America

"The first of the family in America were two brothers, sons of Hans Casper Wuster, of Hillsbach, near Heidelberg, Germany. Casper came to Philadelphia in 1717 and founded the Wister branch.

"John arrived in 1727, adopted Wister as the form of his surname, and was father of Daniel, above mentioned. He built at 325 Market street, and in 1744 constructed a fine country home called Grumblethorpe on Germantown road at Indian Queen lane. This was the first summer resort built in Germantown for a resident of the city, and thus began the present fashion that has spread to Chestnut Hill and even farther.

"Most of Vernon formed a portion of property purchased from the Frankfort Land Company by John Christopher Meng and his wife, Anne Dorothea Baumannin, Baroness von Ebsten, who came from Mannheim, Germany, in 1728. Their oldest son, John Melchoir Meng, married Mary Magdaline Colli-day and inherited the land in question. Father and son planted rare trees and shrubs upon the property. The original Meng house stood near Germantown road and has been demolished. The land included by Vernon Park was sold to James Matthews, who in 1803 built the mansion that now stands. In 1812 it was purchased by John Wister. At his death in 1862 it became the possession of his son, John Wister, member of Congress, who occupied Vernon until his death in 1883. The city of Philadelphia then acquired the house and land and still holds title. Vernon for a while housed the Free Library, then the Site and Relic Society, now known as the Germantown Historical Society.

Building Untenanted

"For the past few years Vernon has been untenanted, fast falling to decay. The roof leaks excessively, panes of glass have fallen from the window frames, and ivy grows over the closed wooden shutters. The Site and Relic Society endeavored to obtain repairs by the municipality, as the mansion was then in such bad condition as to menace the rare historical documents and furniture, but all efforts in this regard were in vain. As a result, the Society reluctantly moved to otherwise less desirable quarters at 5214 Germantown road, leaving Vernon empty and forlorn.

"Here stands a beautiful manor house of excellent Colonial design and proportion, 126 years old, solidly constructed of stone. It has housed one of the leading families of our city and its distinguished guests have been legion. In the hidden spring alongside the road rises a branch of Wingohocking Creek, named for the famous Indian chief who wished to exchange names with James Logan, Penn's secretary. The mansion is surrounded by a municipal park. Hence it will not be menaced by encroaching building operations.

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Early Life

Just a word about his early life in addition to what his daughter wrote. When he was ten years of age he went abroad with his parents, where he spent three years, returning to this country to enter St. Paul's School, at Concord, New Hampshire, a well-known school for boys of the old families, and studied there until his eighteenth year.

During these years he wrote prose and poetry, and it seemed as if literature was the bent of his life, but he suddenly switched to music, and carried off the highest honors of his class in that branch.

This led him to decide upon a musical career and he studied abroad. It may have been opposition at home that led him to abandon his studies.

He returned home, but failing health sent him elk hunting in the far West, when again the desire to write seized him. After regaining his health he entered the Harvard Law School in 1885. Two years later he was a Bachelor of Law and a Master of Arts. He started to establish a practice for himself but each effort in this line was opposed by a fresh desire to go West again. At this time

his home was at Butler Place on Old York road.

To the West he went again and again; catching the spirit of the Western world, with its imagination and impulses he started to write afresh. Just how many of his books and sketches were written on Old York road we are unable at present to state.

An Impression

It methinks he was a disciple of Roosevelt, and with him thought there was too much of gang politics in this land, politics that would sell to predatory corporations the interests and rights of the Nation. In a lengthy retrospective preface to his "Members of the Family," which appeared in 1911, he dwells at length upon the need of the rugged Western spirit in the principles controlling the Nation. The entire preface is worthy of careful perusal in the light of happenings and revelations of today. Space forbids the inserting of but one paragraph.

"By his very creed is the American dedicated to eternal vigilance. This we forgot for so long that learning it anew is both painful and slow. We have further to remember that prosperity is something of a curse in disguise; it is the poor governments in history that have always been the purest; where there is much to steal there will be many to steal it. We must discern, too, the illusion of 'natural rights,' once an inspiration, now a shell from which life has passed on into new formulas. A 'right' has no existence, save in its potential exercise, it does not proceed from within, it is permitted from without, and 'natural rights' is a phrase empty of other meaning than to denote whatever primitive or acquired inclinations of man each individual is by common consent allowed to realize. These permissions have varied, and will vary, with the ages.

"Polygamy would be called a natural rights now in some parts of the world; to the criminal and the diseased one wife will presently be forbidden in many places. Let this sin

11/15/1929

Owen Wister, of Germantown

By Edward B. Phillips

There are doubtless some readers of the Telegraph and other Germantowners who are not aware that Owen Wister, the writer, who recently received the Roosevelt medal, was born and reared in Germantown, and that in honoring him the Roosevelt Memorial Association also honored Germantown.

The medal was conferred on Mr. Wister as one who "caught an era in its flight and holds it for all time for all to see," referring of course to the "Virginian" and other stories of Western life of which we will speak later.

His parents were Dr. Owen J. Wister and his wife, Sarah Kemble Butler, daughter of Fanny Kemble, the great tragedienne and author, of Butler Place. Owen was born in 1860 in the home of Philip R. Freas, at Germantown road and Ashmead street, which still stands, while his parents were waiting for their new home, a square or so above, to be completed. Evidently Owen Wister had transmitted to him through his mother the Kemble taste for literature. When he grew up he married Mary Channing Wister, a distant cousin, who also had a literary strain in her blood.

The Wisters

There are so many branches on the Wister family tree,—some reaching up towards heaven and some—well, nearer the earth—that it is not surprising when occasionally you hear of an offshoot of one branch falling in love with the offshoot of another.

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The investor in the story was a young man with a bit of love in his heart for a young lady and who was desirous of putting to work a million dollars that had been left to him by a crab-appled-faced uncle. He got in touch with a bond and stock dealer, who gave him some tips on the market, and suggested certain bonds as worthy of his consideration, stating that his "mother" had a number she would not part with for anything. Stocks of certain companies were spoken of and the statement made that he was going to buy some for his "mother."

Whenever the young investor seemed to be passing up some highly recommended paper the information quietly given that "Mather" was about to add some more of it to her holdings, would invariably bring him across, until with his girl, he took account of stock and found that his million dollars had shrunk to a quarter of that amount. This stock taking was done while Beverly, the dealer, was making a protracted stay in Europe.

The girl in the case was always opposed to "Mother" and one day while walking through a cemetery found a stone which indicated that Beverly's mother had been dead fifteen years.

In the meantime the business manager of his family was trying to dispose of some worthless land in Michigan that had been given to the young lady. It was reported that copper was found on the land and there was a rush to secure it. Beverly's firm got it for seven hundred thousand dollars, but it soon returned to its old state of

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The Wisters are guilty of various accomplishments. We heard an offshoot of one branch intimate in public that some of her kin were very proficient swearers. Some could do it quite gracefully and some otherwise. It depended on circumstances. She said her grandfather pushed her out of the carriage one day, and to save herself from falling she clutched the door of the vehicle, which came off and then she swore in three different ways—good, bad and indifferent—as she had never heard a Wister swear before, which was saying a great deal. It was just awful! not graceful at all. Still, someone who heard the conflict declared she swore as hard, if not harder than he.

Perhaps this free and vivid use of the English language was transmitted to the subject of this sketch through the paternal side of the house: if so, then he is indebted to the Wisters as well as the Kembles for his literary successes.

His Works

His daughter wrote us that her father was born in 1860 and graduated from Harvard in 1882. He studied law, and then studied music, later going abroad, where he almost became a professional musician on the advice of Liszt. His father objected, and he came home and worked in a bank for awhile, until he began to write. He has written:

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In the meantime the business manager of his family was trying to dispose of some worthless land in Michigan that had been given to the young lady. It was reported that copper was found on the land and there was a rush to secure it. Beverly's firm got it for seven hundred thousand dollars, but it soon returned to its old state of not quite paying the taxes. The stinger was stung and the squeezer was "squoozen" and the young investor hastened to announce to Mr. Beverly his engagement to Miss Lansing, whose Michigan copper land his firm had recently purchased. He thought this was better than using a cowhide on Beverly's motherless shoulders.

The settings of the story are quite unique and retain the attention of both old and young from start to finish.

Climbing the Ladder

Some years ago when writing of the novelist, E. F. Harkins said in part: "In 'The Virginian' Owen Wister may be said to have found himself. For years, though not steadily, he had been trying to produce a genuine noteworthy book; and just as the critics were about to give him up as a hopeless case, he produced his masterpiece—a romance of which on the whole, the most famous of our writers might well be proud—a romance well qualified for mention as the 'great American novel.'"

"The Virginian" was the foremost book of 1902 and bids fair to be popular for years to come. It is historical; it is romantic; it combines all the elements that attract popularity; and, besides, it is unique in its subject and in its style. The subject, the unpolished days of the West, must always be interesting to Americans; indeed, it must grow in interest as the days recede; and the style is like the polish and yet win-

of the Family," which appeared in 1911, he dwells at length upon the need of the rugged Western spirit in the principles controlling the Nation. The entire preface is worthy of careful perusal in the light of happenings and revelations of today. Space forbids the inserting of but one paragraph.

"By his very creed is the American dedicated to eternal vigilance. This we forgot for so long that learning it anew is both painful and slow. We have further to remember that prosperity is something of a curse in disguise; it is the poor governments in history that have always been the purest; where there is much to steal there will be many to steal it. We must discern, too, the illusion of 'natural rights,' once an inspiration, now a shell from which life has passed on into new formulas. A 'right' has no existence, save in its potential exercise, it does not proceed from within, it is permitted from without, and 'natural rights' is a phrase empty of other meaning than to denote whatever primitive or acquired inclinations of man each individual is by common consent allowed to realize. These permissions have varied, and will vary, with the ages.

"Polygamy would be called a natural rights now in some parts of the world; to the criminal and the diseased one wife will presently be forbidden in many places. Let this single illustration serve. No argument based upon the dogmatic premise of natural rights can end save in drifting fog. We see this whenever a meeting of anarchists leads a judge or an editor into the trap of attempting to define the 'right' of free speech. In fact, all government, all liberty, reduces itself to one man saying to another: You may do this; but if you do that, I will kill you. This power Democracy vests in 'the people,' and our final lesson to learn is that in a Democracy there is no such separate thing as 'the people,' all of us are the people. Truly his creed compels the American to external vigilance. Will he learn to live up to it? From the West the tenderfoot took home with him the health he had sought, and an enthusiasm his friends fled from. What was Wyoming to them or they to Wyoming?"

These few "snap-shots" of this notable Germantowner but dimly portray his breadth of mind and literary style. Of him, because of his lineage and advantages, much was expected; whether these expectations were realized is for each reader or student to judge.

We wish Mr. Wister would take up his pen again and flay the political grafters of today—those who are as far away from the ideals he portrays in his earlier writings, as the North and South Poles are from each other.

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...subject, lacking polish and yet winning admiration."
 ...Since the above was written "The Virginian" has been dramatized, the

- Ulysses S. Grant
- "Lady Baltimore"
- "The Virginian"
- "The Pentecost of Calamity"
- "A Square Deal, or The Ancient Grudge"
- "Neighbors Henceforth"
- "Indispensable Information for Infants"
- "Watch Your Thirst"

besides many pamphlets, addresses and prefaces. He has been given a Phi Beta Kappa key by Harvard and an LL. D. by Pennsylvania. He is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Letters.

"Those are the facts that occur to me, and there are a few more of interest, but not, I should say, essential. I have given you nothing you could not obtain elsewhere," concludes his daughter.

"Who's Who" adds "Lin McLean" to the above list of publications and states that he is a Fellow of the American Academy and member of the American Philosophical Society, the Rittenhouse, Philadelphia and Franklin Inn Clubs.

"Mother"—A Warning

None of the lists of Mr. Wister's works which we examined contained the name of a book that appeared in 1907 and which recently fell into our hands. Its title is "Mother," and when we secured it we were hoping it was a biography of his own mother, but were soon undeceived. It was a well-written story containing hints and information that should be valuable to would-be investors in bonds and stocks in these days. It is so feelingly and graphically written that the reader is almost tempted to believe the author was writing from personal experience and trying to make others believe he was rather different to his losses.

leading parts being taken by stage celebrities, crowds witnessing the production. We recently saw it produced on the screen and were intensely interested in the development of the story with its rugged characters and wholesome lessons.

"One of the most striking features of 'The Virginian' is its solidity; there are no flowers of speech, there is no fanciful inflation. It is different from the romantic creation of story-tellers in search of material and from the carefully elaborated pictures of more self-conscious novelists. There is something broad and generous and free about it. It holds the wide horizons and makes evident the sweep of things across a new world. Something of the freshness of the open air is in these pages—hints of strange, far away places where art is still undiscovered and life alone is capitalized. The special note is a fine large honesty, a just and wholesome outlook upon men and things. But with this goes a sense of humor which would give color to the most barren waste, and life to the tamest character."

The book is dedicated to Roosevelt and like him Wister went West in search of health; this he found and inspiration with it. The characters introduced to the readers in "The Virginian" were doubtless true to life, being some of those he met while seeking health. From them he obtained a new perspective of life and was never the same man after contact with them.

The class of people he writes of are gradually growing fewer in the West, and Mr. Wister and other writers have done the Nation and the world a great service by recording their deeds and calling attention to the spirit that prompted them. The spirit is needed today to produce such characters as came out of the West

MUSEUM
5214 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

SAMUEL EMLEN
PRESIDENT

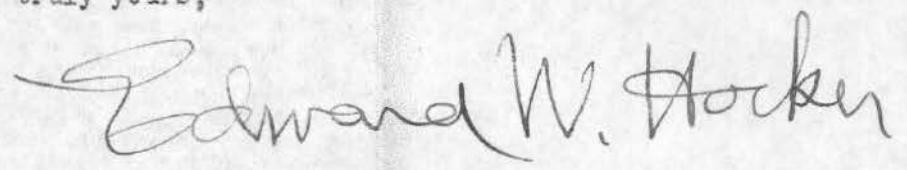
GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GERMANTOWN, PA.

October 14, 1929

Mr. Edward Naegele, Custodian, Museum of Germantown Historical Society.

Dear Mr. Naegele:--Please permit the bearer of this, Mr. A. C. Chadwick, to have access to our library, and especially to the Jellett collection.

Very truly yours,



Librarian.

THE STORY OF "ANCIENT WYCK"

IN TWO PARTS - PART ONE *Telegraph (Germ)*
By Edward B. Phillips *3/29/29*

The writer gave a talk on local history to a group of people, a short time since, after which questions were asked by visitors and newcomers to the town. Among the questions were several pertaining to Wyck the old homestead situated at Germantown road and West Walnut lane, the home of Caspar Wistar Haines and his sister, Jane B. Haines, president of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women. The answers may not have been satisfactory for there was not time enough left for lengthy explanations.

This meeting revealed the fact that there is an eager desire on the part of people to know more about the old landmarks of Germantown and that sketches about them were carefully read when attention was drawn to them. We would suggest that the indexes of the different libraries be examined where mines of information will be disclosed, especially is this true of the Friends Free Library where books, pamphlets and clippings have been gathered and preserved.

We have in our file a fine picture of Wyck which we cut from a magazine some years ago. It is a five by eight picture and one of the best we have seen. We found a copy from the same cut mounted in the Library of Congress at Washington D. C., one of the two cuts of Germantown buildings that we discovered after a search in that vast repository of American historical data. We have at different times written about the trees, footscrapers and gardens of Wyck for the Telegraph and now wish to mention a few historical facts connected with this interesting homestead.

Some Occupants

Wyck belongs to a class of its own, for it has been in possession of one family or line from nearly the founding of Germantown till now. Hans Milan was the owner of the original lot No. 17, upon which Wyck now stands and it has been passed down the line of descendants, bearing the names of Jansen (Johnson), Wistar and Haines. Probably there never was a deed to the property, therefore it is hardly possible to give the exact extent of the original lot, but it is known to have extended from Germantown road to Township line. (now Wissahickon avenue) and possibly near Johnson's lane (Harvey street) to a little above the present line of Walnut lane. Across this lot ran two historic streams, Honey Run and Paper Mill Run.

An examination of the genealogical records of the owners of Wyck reveals the interesting information that members of the family have inter-married with members of nearly all the older families of Germantown, and adjoining districts, therefore the members of all these fami-

lies are interested in Wyck. If we recall correctly, not only the Wistars are connected by marriage, but the Wisters also.

These two families sprang from two brothers. When one of these was being registered, the registrar spelled the name with the wrong vowel, and no effort was made to correct it. The original spelling was Wuster or Wurster, pronounced "Wusser."

Some strange stories have appeared as a result of these different ways of spelling the name. One of these is that the "Tars" were sailors, fond of water and other liquids, which led some to become brewers of high grade malts. One of these proved his right to the "Tar" by rowing across Paper Mill Run in one day.

It is said of the "Ters," that they were fond of terra-firma; this seems to be confirmed by the fact that they have owned a lot of the terra-firma of Germantown, including Vernon, Grumblethorpe, Wister's Hollow, Belfield, Wister's Woods and adjoining tracts; Wister street ran through one of them. Some of the "Ters" refer to the "Tars" as old salts, while the "Tars" reciprocate by gently suggesting that the "Ters" are "land-lubbers." But these are only family pleasantries and do no harm.

These characteristics sometimes manifest themselves in domestic animals owned by the families, as the following incident will indicate. One day the house cat at Wyck was sitting on an exposed root of a tree at the edge of Honey Run, which flowed across near the lower end of the present grounds and while dreaming, his tail gradually lowered until it touched the water, when a good sized catfish seized it, causing the frightened cat to jump and drag the fish from the water. After awhile the cat took the fish by the nape of the neck and carried it into the kitchen. When the master of Wyck saw it, he coaxed the cat to give up the fish by offering him a dish of milk, which the cat disposed of with a relish.

After that Puss Wyck spent considerable time on the same root at the side of the stream and would intentionally allow his tail to touch the water. Several times he brought a fish into the kitchen, which indicated that he was a successful fishercat, but he never gave up the fish until a bowl of milk was forth-coming. This incident clearly proved that the animal belonged to the "Tar" or Old Salt" section of the family.

Whatever sort of faces members of the different sections of the family may make at each other, whatever rivalries exist, or contradictory opinions are held, they are all interested in and loyal to Wyck, the ancient.

THE STORY OF "ANCIENT WYCK"

IN TWO PARTS - CONCLUSION

By Edward B. Phillips

The Grounds

The grounds of Wyck, at the present time are of more than passing interest. Inasmuch as we wrote a letter about the gardens last summer we will pass them at this time by simply saying we could easily sit down and dream about the important persons who have walked in them, the interesting conversations that have taken place, and gripping events that have transpired within the enclosure during the past 240 years. But we must content ourselves with the statement that the box-bordered gardens, summer houses and greenhouses are attractive, producing through the skill of the present owners and their trusted lieutenant, Patrick McGowan, prize winning flowers and vegetables, which are displayed at the exhibitions of the Germantown Horticultural Society of which Mr. C. W. Haines is the efficient treasurer.

The old smoke house, ice house, barn and other out-buildings are still there, reminding of the old farm of decades ago. Some large trees are in the grounds, including the largest horse-chestnut in Germantown, giant weeping willows and trunks of others. On the broad plaza near the entrance is the largest pair of foot-scrappers in Pennsylvania. While digging new post holes a few years ago, part of the foundation of the old brew house was revealed, and a large cache filled with old fashioned bottles, discovered. The pears grown here are luscious ones, much sought after by squirrels.

The Residence

The house interests us greatly, possibly because of the uncertainty of the time of its erection and position. It may be news to some who have not carefully read the history or description of the place, that the present building is composed of two houses of different heights that fronted on a lane running parallel with Harvey street.

These buildings stood about twenty feet apart, but what relation they had originally to each other is not now known. The one nearest Germantown road had six windows and possibly a doorway on the Germantown road side, but these were walled up when the inside portions were removed, making a large room on each floor, thus admitting light and air through windows in the front and rear of the building.

At the same time the space between the buildings was walled up back and front, and a roof, corresponding to those on the houses built over it, thus making of the two houses one building much larger than the combined area of the two original ones. The front door of the Germantown road house, is now the main entrance to the home, the front entrance to the rear house being walled up part way and a window made of it.

Large double glass doors were placed in the front and rear walls of the connecting section, making of the lower floor a large sun parlor, or hallway running from front to rear. This pleasant feature and the architectural changes that were made, at the time of the alterations on the outside of the building, made of it a model that appealed to others who have reproduced some of the outstanding fea-

ture section), two old fashioned flights of steps to the second and third stories with their turns and space saving arrangements and two lofts, making a handy place in which to play hide and seek.

The stairs in the back section are hard ones for rheumatic people to climb, for the steps are of various heights. Owing to having one end built into the stone wall, the steps would have to accommodate themselves to the stones and not the stones to the steps. If a "painful" member of the family started to climb these steps and calculated on a rise of eight inches and then struck one ten inches you can imagine what would take place.

Opposite the foot of these steps is the old fashioned fireplace, with niches in the wall. These were supposed to have been made for tallow lamps to keep the tallow from freezing. We were told that when the domestics awakened in the morning, the tallow in their lamps would be on the blink and they would have to slide down the irregular steps in the dark, tallow lamps in hand, which they would proceed to thaw out and light before they could complete their toilet.

In the hallway just above is a plate-like hanging shelf, between two transoms, upon which a candle could be placed giving light to all who were in both rooms. But, who would extinguish it? And how? We would like to describe some of the furniture and relics of this old home, but space forbids at this time, perhaps we may in another letter.

Notable Visitors

Many notable persons have been guests at old Wyck, the names of a number of these may be seen in the "Visitors' Register." July 20, 1825 a reception was tendered here to General Lafayette and his son when hundreds passed through the sun parlor to pay their respect to the friend of Washington and the Republic who sat in what is known as the Lafayette Chair, and which may still be seen near where it stood on that historic occasion.

Caspar W. Haines the present master of Wyck, has written a treatise in which is set forth the history of his family and a record of their homestead. This is illustrated and bears the title, "Some Account of Wyck and its Owners." This may be found in the local libraries and we advise the readers of this letter to read it. In that pamphlet is an extract from the fly leaf of an old account book of Reuben Haines, a former owner of Wyck, which connects the family with the Germantown Friends Meeting on Coulter street.

This entry refers to the planting of the three giant cypress trees at the graves of members of the Haines family. These trees are a landmark in that neighborhood. They are still vigorous and are possibly the most striking grave markers in Germantown. They were planted 105 years ago.

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The peculiar arrangement of the folding hallway doors is quite an unique one, closing up the wide passage-way between the front and sun parlors, when swung one way and shutting off the vestibule and stairway when swung the other way. The same arrangement was noticed at the head of the rear stairway, and the foot of the third story steps. When the partitions were removed, trusses were built above, and heavy square rods used to support the second floor girders.

The doors all over the building are of the old fashioned style, some heavy, some light, six panels on each side, forming the double cross. The dwelling being composed of two buildings naturally has a number of pairs, two cellars, two cellarways (there is no cellar under the mid-

made for tallow lamps to keep the tallow from freezing. We were told that when the domestics awakened in the morning, the tallow in their lamps would be on the blink and they would have to slide down the irregular steps in the dark, tallow lamps in hand, which they would proceed to thaw out and light before they could complete their toilet.

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THE BEEHIVE

GERMANTOWN, PA.

(REGISTERED U. S. PAT. OFFICE)

In the Interests of "Germantowners for Germantown." Founded by the First and Foremost of All Germantowners, Francis Daniel Pastorius, in 1696.
Published by FLEU & FETTEROLF, 5954 Germantown Avenue.

VOLUME III

NOVEMBER, 1922

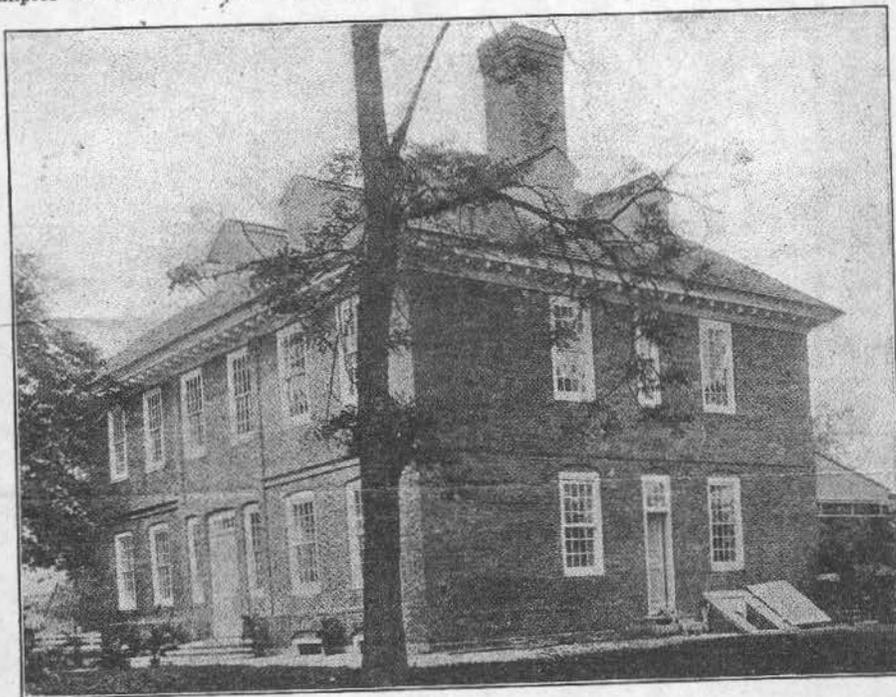
NUMBER 2

South Germantown History From Stenton Mansion to Grumblethorpe

By THOMAS G. PARRIS

SOME will say, give us less of history and more of action. True, we should not live in the past, but the measuring of our present-day standards alongside those of the past in many ways will be profitable. The striking examples of Colonial architecture still re-

South Germantown section. Many, too, of Germantown's finest mansions were located there. At the southernmost point, across the township line by a few hundred feet, we find Stenton Mansion, then Naglee's house, and Loudoun, while at the upper end stood Christopher Sauer's house,



STENTON MANSION

maining in the South Germantown district are worthy of our attention, and a mention of some of the notable historical events which happened there, no doubt, will give us a feeling of satisfaction that we live in the district which from its very beginning has meant so much to Germantown.

From the first day of the settlement of Germantown down through the years, many incidents of note, worthy of record, have occurred in the

and, still standing, are Indian Queen Inn, now altered into stores, and Grumblethorpe, looking much as it did when completed in 1744.

First Settlers Located in South Germantown

In passing, we should mention that the lots of the first settlers in Germantown Township were laid out beginning about where Fisher's Lane now is. The numbering of the lots began there with those on the east side of Germantown Road



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being designated as "Lots Toward Bristol" and those on the west side, "Lots Toward Schuylkill." In the olden time South Germantown probably was the centre of things, for it will be remembered that the original Crefels settlers, thirteen in number, were assigned lots together at the southern end of the village. Notice the names of the owners of the various lots:

- Lots Toward Bristol—
 - 1c. Peter Keurlis
 2. Thones Kunders
 3. John Lensen
 4. Leonard Arets
 - 5s. Reynier Tysen
 6. John Lucken
- Lots Toward Schuylkill—
 1. Jan Strepers
 2. Dirck of de Graeff
 3. Herman of de Graeff
 - 4b. Jno. Simons and Wm. Strepers
 5. Paul Wulff
 6. Johannes Bleickers

These twelve lots, together with some "Side Lots Toward Bristol" and "Side Lots Toward Schuylkill," comprised South Germantown as we know it today. The boundaries of two or three of the lots will be instructive. Lot 1c—Toward Bristol (east side) had what is now Garfield Street for its southern boundary and Dannehawer's Mill Road, later Duy's Lane, now Wister Street, as its northern boundary. Between Dannehawer's Mill Road and Bringhurst Street were lots 2, 3, 4 and 5s. On the west side, between Bockius Street, now Manheim Street, and Bowman's Lane, now Queen Lane, were lots 3, 4 and 5 of "Lots Toward Schuylkill." Had we the space, brief of title of some of these lots could be cited, showing the ownership from the years of long ago down till today.

Stenton Mansion

Building on these lots must have been extensive, for as early as 1728 the Stenton Mansion, still standing at Eighteenth and Courtland Streets, was completed. An inspection of this wonderful house, still in an excellent state of preservation, causes one to wonder at the fine character of the buildings of that early time. Stenton Mansion was purchased by the City of Philadelphia together with sufficient acreage, to give it a proper setting in what is now known as Stenton Park. This building is one of the most beautiful and representative examples of Colonial architecture we find anywhere in America. If history is worth anything, it gives us standards of what to do and what not to do. What mechanic interested in building construction would not be benefited and inspired to better work by a trip to Stenton to inspect this mansion which has stood for nearly two hundred years?

Stenton was erected for a residence by James Logan, Secretary to William Penn. Much of the early history of Philadelphia is connected with this mansion. Logan, during the absence of William Penn, for instance, was intrusted with the responsibility of governing Pennsylvania. Many notables visited Logan in his home. During his life scores of Indians visited him, remaining for days, as they looked upon him as their great friend. During the occupancy of the mansion by Dr. George Logan (1755-1821) George Washing-

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ton visited twice, once in 1777, during the campaigning around Germantown, and later, in 1787, while he was presiding at the Constitutional Convention. Sir William Howe made it his headquarters just previous to the Battle of Germantown.

Space will not permit of a detailed description of the interior. Suffice it to say that the rooms are spacious, with large open fireplaces, and are furnished in the true Colonial style. The furniture is that actually used by the Logans. We take pleasure in noting that the fine condition of Stenton Mansion is due to the care given it by the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America, and, further, we are indebted to a beloved woman, Mrs. Deborah Norris-Logan, wife of Dr. George Logan, for much of the knowledge of historical happenings connected with the mansion. During her life (1761-1839) she spent considerable time in copying the correspondence of James Logan and William Penn from letters she found in the attic. It is altogether fitting and proper that Deborah Logan and her husband, Dr. George Logan, should be buried in the family graveyard not far from the mansion. The mansion is open to visitors from one to five o'clock every day except Thursdays and Sundays. A profitable time can be spent in going over the many interesting relics deposited in the mansion.

Houses at Top of Negley's Hill

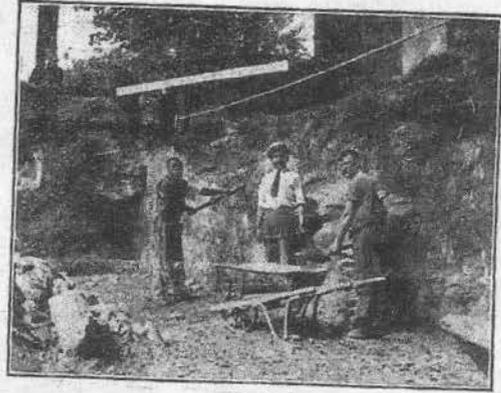
Leaving Stenton Mansion and climbing up Germantown Road, we reach the top of the hill called Negley's, where we see a group of most interesting houses. On the west side, Number 4810, is the Toland House, well preserved today and actually being used as The Assisi Catholic High School. On the east side, just above the Schaeffer School, Wakefield Church and the Adamson Mansion, are four stately houses, Numbers 4817-21-25-27. Number 4817, the Mehl house, and 4825, the Ottinger house, deserve especial mention. It is said that soldiers who fell in the Battle of Germantown were buried near the Mehl house. The Ottinger house also was the centre of some of the fighting during the battle and later became the residence of Captain Douglass Ottinger. He expended the first appropriation made by the United States Government for lifesaving service and later invented the "life-car." Several other old houses, notably the Mechlin-Wagner and Dedier houses, have been razed and other buildings occupy their sites. The Wachsmuth-Henry house (No. 4908) still stands.

A mere mention of the Lower Burying Ground, now called Hood's Cemetery, can be made. It is located at Fisher's Lane and Germantown Avenue and is upon "Side Lot No. 4 Towards Bristol," which was originally owned by Leonard Arct. The oldest tombstone is that of Samuel Coulston, October, 1707. There are many soldiers of Revolutionary fame buried in the cemetery.

Fleckenstein's and Town of Manheim

The next point of interest is the historical old street now called Reger, but earlier it bore the name of Spring Alley. Probably the most interesting attraction of Spring Alley was Fleckenstein's—this house is still standing and is number 5034. We now have our recreation centres,

excavations. The illustration of the remains of this wall is printed with this article. Many stories of well-built old Colonial houses with strong walls have been told. In some cases dynamite had to be used to remove them. The Sauer house foundation wall was so well constructed that it was impossible to destroy it, to make way for



Sauer House Wall—Too Solid to Remove

new foundations, hence it remains as it was in 1731 and becomes part of the foundation of the new stores.

A Few Historical Incidents

Lack of space makes it necessary to hurry on from this mere list of names of old houses. For the sake of the reader who may have an abiding interest in these historical matters, he is referred for details to Watson's "Annals of Philadelphia," Hotchkin's "Ancient and Modern Germantown and Chestnut Hill," and "History of Old Germantown," by Dr. John P. Garber and Dr. Naaman H. Keyser.

The many happenings of note which took place in these houses located in South Germantown cannot be more than mentioned. The first protest against slavery was made in the Thones Kunders house in 1688. In the issue of *THE BEEHIVE* of November, 1921, this protest is given in full. The full details of the history of the Sauer house, it is hoped, may be given in a later article. Suffice it to say that the first Bible published in America was printed there in 1743 in the German language nearly forty years before any other Bible was printed in America. Many incidents of the Battle of Germantown took place in old South Germantown. Count Zinzendorf opened the first Moravian school in Germantown in 1742, which was later moved to the Bechtel house (No. 5226 Germantown Avenue). Again the reader is referred to the sources already mentioned for a detailed account of the many historical incidents which took place in this section.

Suggested Campaign of Store Improvement

South Germantown of today—we have row on row of houses turned into stores. As an agent everlastingly endeavoring to get improvements, *THE BEEHIVE* holds up to our merchants the wonderful mansions of the past. Take the list mentioned above and go from one to the other, making a study of their greatness. Simplicity, massiveness, stolidity—yes, and beauty—are impres-

sive features of each of them. Some of them, recently improved, do credit to our Germantown Avenue; but others—alas, mere hovels—stores of no attractiveness. Merchants of South Germantown—adopt a slogan and preach it and see that it is practised—Germantowners for Germantown—and then another—**BEAUTIFY OUR STORES—MAKE THEM BETTER PLACES IN WHICH TO SHOP.** How many will follow the example of the few who have led with beautiful store fronts and attractive interiors? The traffic past the stores of South Germantown is tremendous. Why not hold the shoppers there by beautiful surroundings? In order to stimulate a proper spirit of emulation, if the merchants of South Germantown will start a campaign of store improvement, **THE BEEHIVE** will publish an article twelve or fourteen months hence showing the great progress that will have been made. If such an article is published, we promise to illustrate it with the pictures of those stores which best represent the true type of progress which should typify the ideals of our great community.

In connection with this suggested campaign of improvement, it is interesting to note the contrast of the two illustrations of Manheim corner printed with this article. On the one hand we see the hovels of long ago which had outlived their usefulness and on the other hand Manheim corner of today, as printed on the outside cover page of this issue with the old Anthony Wayne



Manheim Corner of Long Ago

Hotel, much improved by the recent removal of awnings and the two attractive new stores erected just south of it.

Men and women of South Germantown—of all Germantown and Chestnut Hill, can we not see that our development is only in its infancy? Improving our stores, attracting a larger number of our residents as customers, holding high our ideals of a square deal for all, will place the business of modern Germantown where it ought to be—a leader of all communities—a type which other sections will be proud to imitate. All work together to hasten the day when we shall be proud to accompany our friends who may be visiting us to the old and new of Germantown—as we approach our town by way of South Germantown may we proudly exclaim, as we point out all the business places newly made attractive—This is our Germantown—old in history—but new with many improved modern stores and up-to-date business methods!

our clubs and the like, but in the very early days South Germantown had its Fleckenstein's. Here every night and on stormy days there was a gathering of the faithful, and after a general discussion of the news of the day, "many weighty questions were decided." Fleckenstein's was really the old curiosity shop of the town, and in addition they did general repairing of every kind and invariably charged three cents for services rendered no matter how long the job took.

Back through this territory German Square, a park, was laid out. Knox Street now runs through the centre of what was formerly the square. The old Anthony Wayne Hotel at Manheim Street has an interesting history. Most of the enlisting of soldiers to serve in our wars took place in this hotel. Just above Manheim Street is the Barron house (No. 5106), and on the east side (No. 5109) the site of the Thones Kunders house, where the first protest against slavery was made in 1688. It is interesting to know that land development schemes existed in the very early days of South Germantown. On the site of the present location of Manheim Cricket Club and the surrounding area the town of Manheim was laid out. Fifty building lots were surveyed for sale to persons wishing to build small houses. Before the lots could be sold to individual owners, they were purchased by well-to-do persons from Philadelphia, who developed large estates by consolidating them.

"Corvy," Conyngham and Jungkurth's

Continuing up Germantown Avenue, we pass the Heft house (No. 5122). Nos. 5137-39 are two interesting old houses and 5151-53 is the site of the residence of Major Philip R. Freas, the founder of *The Germantown Telegraph*. The *Telegraph* was printed in a shop that stood at what is now 5155 Germantown Avenue. On the west side we find "Corvy" house (No. 5140), Conyngham (No. 5214), Howell house (No. 5218) and Jungkurth's (No. 5219). Of these houses three are worthy of a special word—"Corvy," Conyngham and Jungkurth's. To the rear of "Corvy," Gilbert Stuart had his studio in an old barn. It was here that the celebrated portrait of Washington was painted. At this time Washington lived in the Morris house (No. 5442) and took the necessary trips to the studio to enable Stuart to paint his portrait. Conyngham is interesting, as it marks the position of a portion of the British army at the time of the Battle of Germantown. The Jungkurth house, from 1775, was owned by John Bringhurst. It will be recalled that Bringhurst was noted for "Germantown" wagons, and it was he who built George Washington's chariot.

Foundation of Sauer House

Approaching Queen Lane on the west side, Nos. 5230-32 is the site of Van Lasket's house, now occupied by a printing establishment; and then we pass a number of old Colonial houses which could be much improved by slight alterations. At Queen Lane stands the old Indian Queen Inn, now divided into two stores. On the east side at Queen Lane is the site of the house of Christopher Sauer. This site is now being improved by building stores, and it is interesting to note that the old foundation wall of the Sauer house, built in 1731, was unearthed during

Bristol and Germantown - Edward Schuyler - for it will be

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Men and Things

Louisa May Alcott, Author of
 "Little Women," Born in German-
 town One Hundred Years Ago—
 Her Father, Later in Life
 Leader of the Famed Con-
 cord Group of Philosophers,
 Brought Here From New
 England as Head of a
 School in a New
 Order of Education

GERMANTOWN has an interest in the centenary of the birth of Louisa M. Alcott, author of "Little Women," which has been described as the most popular book ever written for young people. Miss Alcott was a New Englander, but her father, A. Bronson Alcott, was for a time a resident of Germantown, and she was born in that historic section of the present Philadelphia.

Through Reuben Haines, leader in cultural movements in the Philadelphia of the early 19th century, the philosophic Alcott, "the Orphic One," as he was later termed, was brought to Germantown. Alcott had been struggling against fate in trying to put to test his novel ideas of education. Of all places in the world Germantown might have been thought about the most unpromising field for pedagogical experiments such as those of Alcott, imbued as they were with New England transcendentalism. But among Germantown's pioneer settlers were many mystics, idealists and dreamers. Their first religious groups consisted of Pietists, Quakers, Methodists and Dunkers.

In his later life the teacher of the Concord School of Philosophy, the exponent of transcendentalism and the friend of Emerson was known as A. Bronson Alcott. When he came to Germantown in 1831 to teach school he wrote his name Amos B. Alcott. He was then 32 years old. He had been born on a Connecticut farm, and, becoming a school teacher, developed ideas about education greatly at variance with accepted practices. He wanted to awaken in children, even very young children, their capacity for grasping ideas rather than memorizing words. But none of his teaching ventures seemed successful, partly because of their extreme novelty but largely because of Alcott's inability to maintain discipline. He was teaching in Boston in 1830, and there married Abigail May, daughter of Colonel Joseph May, of Boston.

Closely following the trend of educational thought, Reuben Haines, of Germantown, became interested in Alcott's methods. Mr. Haines had been giving much time and attention to the encouragement of school improvements. His early years had been spent in the old city of Philadelphia, and he was a member of the first Board of School Controllers. From his father he inherited a large interest in a brewery, from which he derived an income that enabled him to devote himself to intellectual pursuits. For 20 years he was secretary of the Academy of Natural Sciences and conducted a wide correspondence with leaders in scientific pursuits in America and England. He also was one of the early supporters of the Franklin Institute.

By inheritance Reuben Haines became the owner of the home of his ancestors in Germantown, a house the original part of which had been built at the end of the 17th century, and which, together with the grounds, is today one of the notable landmarks of Germantown, situated at Germantown avenue and Walnut lane and now the home of the grandchildren of Reuben Haines, Mr. Caspar Wistar Haines and his sister, Miss Reuben Haines Jane B. Haines. Reu-

ronage" of the Academy trustees, but they were virtually independent establishments. Alcott received the small children, both boys and girls, and at the age of seven years the girls were transferred to Russell's school and the boys to Germantown Academy, at School lane and Greene street.

In the house which Mr. Haines bought, as mentioned in his diary, the Alcotts lived and conducted their school. By September there were as many pupils as could be accommodated, due in large measure to Reuben Haines' influence. The people of the community had confidence in him, and when he urged them to send their children to Alcott's school they were disposed to comply. If the small tuition fee and the moderate boarding rates did not cover expenses, Mr. Haines made up the deficit, so that Alcott had no financial worries but could give himself unreservedly to the pursuit of his ideas of child training. Some of the Germans of Germantown, it is said, did not approve of Alcott as a schoolmaster because he was too gentle and did not resort to flogging. But his gentleness pleased the Quakers.

Mrs. Alcott was delighted with the house and grounds that Mr. Haines provided for them, describing the place as a "little paradise." There was a "beautiful serpentine walk," she wrote, "shaded with pines, firs, cedars, apple, pear, peach and plum trees, a long cedar hedge from the back to the front fence." "A fine Venetian window looks down the yard at one end, and two windows at the other end look into the main street."

Formerly the house had been the home of the Rev. James Rooker, who he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Germantown. He died in 1823, and Mr. Haines bought the property from his estate. Because of the trees which Mrs. Alcott mentioned, it was known as Pine Place, though irreverent natives spoke of it as the "Rookery." Descriptions of the house picture it as similar to "Pine Place" the early farmhouses of that region. In 1866, Both Home and School St. Luke's Episcopal Church, adjoining, bought Pine Place, and the house became the rectory, while a parish house was built on the rear of the grounds, and part of the site was used for burials. The church sold the front, including the house, in 1873, to Mitchell Lodge of Free Masons, which had the house removed and a Masonic Hall erected on the site. This building, now No. 5425 Germantown avenue, is still used as the meeting place of Germantown's Masonic organizations.

Mr. Haines adorned Alcott's schoolroom with busts of Locke and Newton—appropriate to the donor no doubt thought, in fostering Alcott's great purpose of forming the mental and moral character of his pupils. Mrs. Alcott had a housekeeper, a nurse and several servants, and she and her husband were happy, for under the aegis of Reuben Haines it seemed as though at last their struggles against adversity were at an end.

Then, without warning disaster overwhelmed the enterprise. On October 19, 1831, in accordance with his weekly custom, Mr. Haines went to Philadelphia to attend a meeting at the Academy of Natural Sciences. He seemed to be in the best health all day and after returning home. But at midnight he died suddenly.

Deprived of the financial support and the judicious guidance of Mr. Haines, the school faced difficulties. Mrs. Alcott strove to reduce expenses by dismissing servants and doing all the house work. But pupils were steadily withdrawn, for the Quakers, while they admired Alcott's gentleness, had little patience with her ceaseless business methods. Nevertheless, the school was continued throughout 1832. Alcott

As Backer mantown estate Wyck, the name of the home of an old Haines family in England from whom he believed his family to be descended, though later inquiry has cast doubt upon that belief. Among the historical treasures of Wyck are the diaries of Reuben Haines, in which are some notes about the coming of the Alcotts to Germantown.

Following his marriage, in 1812, Reuben Haines lived in Philadelphia in the winter and spent his summers in Germantown, but after 1820 Wyck was the home of the family throughout the year. He was a trustee of Germantown Academy, which had been founded in 1760 and which, before the opening of public schools, was the principal school in Germantown. On his farm he pursued experiments to improve farming methods and animal breeding. When General Lafayette

the town. John James Audubon, arriving to bring about the publication of his great work on American birds, received the encouragement of Reuben Haines and was a guest at Wyck, as also were other outstanding men and women of those times.

Mr. Haines introduced the Lancasterian system of school management in Germantown. It was the newest and most popular idea in education. According to the plan which Joseph Lancaster, an English Friend, was advocating, it would be possible to offer schooling to children whose parents hitherto had been unable to pay for it, for all the older students were to spend part of each day teaching the younger children, thus minimizing the number of paid teachers. Mr. Haines found a teacher and opened a Lancasterian school in Germantown.

Another educational innovation of his was the "infant school," analogous to the kinder-

and helped his wife for their two children—Anna Bron, born March 19, 1831, and Lotisa May, born November 29, 1832.

Matters went from bad to worse. Once the family and the pupils were without meat for two days, and the boarding children complained of hunger. Then Mrs. Alcott's long-tried patience was exhausted, and she told her husband to "use common sense and care for the bodies of the children as well as their souls."

"What would you have me do, my dear?" inquired the astonished Alcott. "Can I hunt or trap in Germantown? We have no money for the butcher."

Not long afterward the Germantown school was closed. On April 23, 1833, Alcott opened a school on Eighth street, below Walnut, Philadelphia. This also proved unsuccessful, and in 1834 the Alcott family returned to Boston.

EDWARD W. HOCKER.

'Little Women' Born in Germantown



Louisa May Alcott was born in Germantown, at 5435 Germantown ave., on the site now occupied by the Masonic Hall, on November 29, 1832.

Then, no one but the family thought much about her birth, but now her birthday is annually celebrated by thousands of readers all over the world who love her famous books, "Little Women," "Little Men," "An Old Fashioned Girl," "Eight Cousins," and others.

It is a popular misconception that Miss Alcott was born in Concord, Mass. When she was but two years old, her father closed the school he was running in Germantown and moved to Boston. He opened a school there in the Masonic Temple. After forsaking school-keeping, he moved to Concord when Louisa was eight years old.

Her First Poem.

Louisa M. Alcott's literary ambition had an early origin. At only eight years of age she wrote a poem which she called "To the First Robin," in which she said:

*"Welcome, welcome, little stranger,
 Fear no harm, and fear no danger;
 We are glad to see you here,*

Fruitlands, the Alcott-Lane homestead, now the site of the Masonic Hall, 5435 Germantown ave., is shown in upper photo as it appeared in 1843. Inset shows Louisa May Alcott, author of "Little Women." Lower photo is a scene from the motion picture, "Little Women." Left to right are Frances Dee as Meg, Jean Parker as Beth and Katharine Hepburn as Jo. They are placing Christmas presents on the breakfast table for Marmee.

ton on a dull November day, intent on carrying out her resolution to be, for evermore, self-helpful and independent. And triumphantly she succeeded. By teaching, sewing, writing—anything that she could do—she not only supported herself for many long, busy, toilsome years before any grand financial triumph came, but sent home to the dear ones left behind an ever-increasing store of material help and comfort; an unselfish pleasure which lightened her hard tasks and sweetened every small success.

In those years Miss Alcott began to

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Fear no harm, and fear no danger;
We are glad to see you here,
For you sing sweet spring is near.
Now the snow is nearly gone,
Now the grass is coming on—
The trees are green, the sky is blue,
And we are glad to welcome you."*

She gave this account of the beginning of her literary career:

"This gem (To the First Robin) my proud mother preserved with care, assuring me that if I kept on in this way I might be a second Shakespeare in time. Fired with this modest ambition, I continued to write poems upon dead butterflies, lost kittens, the baby's eyes, and other simple subjects till the story-telling mania set in; and after frightening my sisters out of their wits by awful tales whispered in bed, I began to write down these histories of giants, ogres, dauntless girls, and magic transformations till we had a library of small paper-covered volumes illustrated by the author. Later the poems grew gloomy and sentimental, and the tales more fanciful and less tragic, lovely elves and spirits taking the places of the former monsters."

Five-Dollar Stories.

At 16, Miss Alcott wrote, for the pleasure of Ralph Waldo Emerson's daughter, Elen, her first book, "Flower Fables." It was afterwards published, but not until 1854, when Louisa was 22. Her first full-grown romantic story was printed in "Gleason's Pictorial," and for this she received the enormous sum of \$5. This first published story appeared in 1851, when Miss Alcott was 19. The next year she sent "The Rival Prima Donnas" to the Boston Saturday Evening Gazette, which was accepted and paid with a \$10 bill and a request for more.

Some time later on, "The Rival Prima Donnas" afforded Miss Alcott a glimpse of glory.

Louisa Alcott then went out into the world to seek her own fortune, even as Joe does in "Little Women." She took a little trunk full of plain clothes, of her own making, and \$20 which she had earned by writing. With this outfit she traveled to Bos-



Fruitlands, the Alcott-Lane homestead, now the site of the Masonic Hall, 5425 Germantown ave., is shown in upper photo as it appeared in 1843. Inset shows Louisa May Alcott, author of "Little Women." Lower photo is a scene from the motion picture, "Little Women." Left to right are Frances Dee as Meg, Jean Parker as Beth and Katharine Hepburn as Jo. They are placing Christmas presents on the breakfast table for Marmee.

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In those years Miss Alcott began to write "sensation" stories. It seems almost incredible, but after a little practice in crowding much wrath, ruin and revenge into 25 manuscript pages, she found she could turn out 10 or 12 tales in a month. Frank Leslie gladly accepted these exciting romances for his numerous publications. After a while Louisa grew weary of this kind of writing.

"Little Women" Born.

It was in 1868 that Louisa wrote "Little Women" in response to a publisher's request. She said she wrote it just to prove that she could not write a girl's story, having always preferred to play with boys, and therefore knowing very little about any girls except her sisters and herself. This matchless tale was sent to the publishers in about two months after it had been first asked for, with the amusing suggestion that if the title—that happiest title which juvenile book ever had—was not liked the author would willingly change it for something else.

This was the beginning of one of the most shining successes ever achieved by an author of juvenile literature—so great a success that when "Little Men" was issued, its publication had to be delayed until the publishers were prepared to fill advance orders for 50,000 copies.

When Louisa Alcott was asked one time how large a portion of her books were actually founded upon the facts of her life, she said that "Little Women" was really the story of herself and her sisters, with such slight changes of time, place, and denouement as were necessary to make the tale complete.

Louisa May Alcott died on March 6, 1888.

Louisa M. Alcott will live forever in the hearts of countless thousands of children just as long as her books are reprinted, and particularly in the character of "Jo," in "Little Women," which was really a character study of herself. This is the role which Katherine Hepburn, who went to Bryn Mawr and married a Philadelphian plays as the star of RKO-Radio's screen dramatization of the famous book.

The Little Woman Is 99

Today Is the Anniversary of Louisa May Alcott's Birth in Germantown; Became Favorite Author of Children

JUST ninety-nine years ago today Louisa May Alcott first saw the light of day in a little house in Germantown.

Destined to become one of the greatest children's story tellers of all time, she was born on her father's birthday.

For two years the family lived in Germantown, until 1834, when her father opened his celebrated school in the Masonic Temple in Boston under the patronage of Dr. Channing. For assistants he had Miss Sophia Peabody, who later became Mrs. Hawthorne; her sister, Miss Elizabeth Peabody, and Margaret Fuller.

It was here under the mellowing influence of New England culture and tradition, that the future writer spent the happy years of her childhood. For more than three years the school achieved a tremendous success until the publication, in 1827, of Alcott's "Conversations of the Gospels" caused staid and pious Bostonians to withdraw their children from the school.

Emerson came to his defense and urged him to close the institution and leave Boston, but this he refused to do on the grounds that his ideals of the proper way to conduct an academy were at stake and he would not surrender.

School Forced to Close

IN 1839 a Negro woman was admitted to the school and all the rest of the pupils left, with the exception of Alcott's three daughters. And so his experiment ended in defeat, leaving debts which Louisa eventually paid from her earnings as a writer. She was 7 years old when the school closed, placing the family in straitened financial circumstances.

Despite the rigid moral training of the family, Louisa was somewhat of a tomboy. She recalled that she had never allowed in her social circle any girls who could not climb a tree or any boys whom she had not defeated in a footrace. Her "Poppy's Pranks" is believed to cover much of her own life at this stage of her childhood.

In "Little Women," Miss Alcott paints a word picture of a delightful home as "Meg's first home," and undoubtedly the home she described

was that of her childhood, with its garden of fruit and shade trees, its delightful old barn where healthy youngsters could romp and frolic.

Her ability to write was developed at an early age through the necessity of keeping a journal at her father's compulsion.

Community Fails

ABOUT this time her father decided to leave the home in Concord and, with several English



LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Socialists, founded Fruitlands as an experiment on the lines of the then-famous Brook Farm community. In a delightful volume entitled "Silver Pitchers," Miss Alcott gives some of the pathetic human happenings at the colony, which was destined to failure.

With the failure of the community, the Alcotts bought Hillside, in Concord, which was occupied by the Hawthornes after the Alcotts left. Much of the life at Hillside is retold in "Little Women." In 1849 the family moved to Boston, where Alcott obtained a position through friends.

Her first story to appear in print was published in a newspaper in 1852 when she was 20, although it had been written when she was 16. The remuneration was \$5.

The outbreak of the Civil War made her feel she must do her share to preserve the Union. So she went to Washington and became a nurse in one of the military hospitals.

Her success continued for many years and she was able to open a school in Concord for her father. But he died from overwork in his 89th year.

And on the day of his funeral, March 8, 1888, Louisa Alcott died from a cold caught attending him.

Centenary to Be Marked



Louisa May Alcott, noted author, who was born 100 years ago next Tuesday in Germantown

Homage to Author

Louisa May Alcott, Who Won Fame With "Little Women," Born Century Ago

By VICTOR HENDERSON

TUESDAY will be the 100th anniversary of the birth, in Germantown, of Louisa May Alcott.

"How I love 'Little Women'!—I read it over and over, even now, when I'm grown up," enthusiastically exclaimed one young woman yesterday, when reminded that the centenary is at hand of the most famous American author of books for young folk.

"Without knowing it, we're all celebrating that centenary," she suddenly realized. "This very minute we're all beginning to dress like Jo, Beth, Amy and Meg. Look!"

From a paper bag she triumphantly drew forth the chief prize of her morning's shopping expedition.

"Look at that bodice!" she commanded. "See—buttons down the front, and a turnover white collar, and big puffed sleeves—just—"

quarter of a century from 1857 on, eventually was bought by the Concord Woman's Club and furnished with relics of the beloved author and her kin and with other appropriate furnishings that restored its true atmosphere. So it now remains a place of pilgrimage yearly for tens of thousands of lovers of Louisa May Alcott's imperishably delightful books.

Memories cling about that ancient house in Concord not only of Louisa May Alcott but of her father—a genius, too, no matter how impractical—and of his fellow Transcendentalists, and of such famous friends and admirers of his as Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Ellery Channing, Theodore Parker and William T. Harris, who lived in Orchard House after the Alcotts had departed from it.

She was already 35 when she finished "Little Women," and to that moment her life had been full of privation and toilsome struggle.

Daughter of Philosopher

HER father, A. Bronson Alcott—Tuesday is his birthday as well as his daughter's—was a philosopher who walked with his head in the clouds, fed his family on barley because he deemed it wicked to eat meat or milk, dressed them in cotton because he held it cruel to deprive the sheep of the covering nature had provided for it, and made an idealistic success and a practical failure of almost everything he attempted in the course of trying to support his family.

Thus, as a schoolmaster, he was a pioneer long ahead of his time in his ideas regarding pre-school education.

Aided Her Family

IN HER teens, Louisa May Alcott was hard at work trying to make up for her father's incapacity as a breadwinner for the family. She dressed dolls, she worked as a seamstress, for a little while she went into domestic service. At 16 she sold her first story—and received \$5 for it. At 22 she published her first book—"Flower Fables," a group of short stories—and her total receipts for that volume were \$32.

In 1860 things looked up for a moment for the family—Alcott was appointed superintendent of schools at Concord.

Sharing her family's ardent Abolitionist sympathies, Louisa May Alcott went off in 1862 to be an army nurse. That Civil War service of hers lasted only six weeks. She was sent home to convalesce from a severe illness—"hospital fever," it was called. Never to the end of her days did she recover the strong good health of her early life.

But good fortune sprang from bad fortune. The letters she had written home from the army hospital were given serial publication and later published as a book which received much favorable attention. In 1864 she published what she always thought her best work—"Moods," a novel. In 1865 she was able to afford the long-dreamed luxury of a trip to Europe.

Disliked Book's Topic

WHEN, a little later, when she had suggested a fairy book, a publisher insisted, instead, on "a book for girls." With unwillingness and distaste she set to work on what seemed to her just a pot-boiling job. But when the book appeared, in 1868, it made so great a success that it paid off all the family debts and provided a modest capital sufficient to provide for the future needs of the family. The book won its author such fame that for most of the rest of her life she couldn't live with her own family, because she would be too much flooded by time-wasting visitors. She had to maintain a separate home of her own, where she could work undisturbed.

Bronson Alcott died March 4, 1888, at the age of 83. And his devoted daughter died just two days later—unknowing that her father's life already had ended.

Orchard House, built in 1650,

11/3/32 Bulletin

Men and Things

Germantown Proud As Birthplace of Dr. Henry Van Dyke—His Father Was Born in Abington, and His Grandfather Was Long a Practicing Physician in Philadelphia and Its Suburbs

NOVEMBER brings the 80th birthday anniversary of a distinguished son of Germantown, Dr. Henry van Dyke, as well as the centenary of another literary celebrity born in Germantown, Louisa M. Alcott. Both Henry van Dyke and Louisa M. Alcott, as well as David Rittenhouse, the bicentenary of whose birth in the Germantown region was commemorated in April, all left the locality of their birth at so early an age that later they remembered nothing about the place, and none of the three ever returned to live in Germantown. But they are part of the family history of the community.

While the house in which Louisa M. Alcott was born was removed more than a half century ago, that where Henry van Dyke first saw the light of day, on November 10, 1852, still stands, at 5909-11 Germantown av., though in recent times the first floor has been converted into a store.

In the early years of the present century Dr. van Dyke, famous as a preacher, poet, story teller, university professor and fisherman, lectured one evening in Germantown's old Association Hall, on Germantown avenue, below Haines street. In those days there flourished in Germantown a literary coterie known as the Mermaid Club, which held weekly meetings for 40 years. Most of the members were present to hear Dr. van Dyke, and after the lecture, when they thronged about him, someone alluded to Dr. van Dyke's having been born in Germantown.

"Yes, I know that," responded the lecturer, "but I wonder where it happened and whether the house still stands."

The late Edwin C. Jellett, local historian and active spirit in the Mermaid Club, told Dr. van Dyke that his birthplace was within a stone's throw of the hall where they then were. Of course, Dr. van Dyke wanted to see the house. So the Mermaid Club members guided him up Germantown avenue and across Haines street, where the house was pointed out, opposite Germantown's Town Hall.

When he was born here Dr. van Dyke's father, the Rev. Dr. Henry Jackson van Dyke, was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, and this house was the parsonage, the church being then situated on the site of the hall in which the younger Dr. van Dyke lectured.

The elder Dr. van Dyke had assumed the Germantown pastorate in July, 1852, this being his second charge. From 1845 until 1852 he had been pastor of the church in Bridgeton, N. J. He remained in Germantown only one year, leaving in July, 1853, to become pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn. The family had been overwhelmed with grief in Germantown by the death of two young sons, and it is said this impelled Dr. van Dyke to accord a prompt acceptance to the Brooklyn call. That pastorate he held until his sudden death, in

seven children. Jan van Dyke of the third generation made his home in Middlesex county, N. J., where he owned 2,100 acres of land. His son Jan, serving as a militiaman in the Revolution at the age of 69 years, lost his life at the battle of Monmouth, in 1778. He was the grandfather of Dr. Frederick A. van Dyke.

As pastor and professor Dr. van Dyke influenced thousands. But he wielded a far wider appeal through his books, which have found ready sale in many editions. As a student in Princeton his verses won recognition. He wrote the Princeton "Triangle Song" as the college lyric. His first books dealt with religion. Then his powers as a literary critic became evident in his work on "The Poetry of Tennyson," in 1889. Still another aspect of his many-sided appreciation of life came to view in "Little Rivers" and his other nature books. He was a fisherman and he could record the joys of angling upon paper to the delight of multitudes of readers.

"The Other Wise Man," originally prepared as a Christmas sermon and first published in 1896, has in large measure supplanted Dickens' "Christmas Carol" as the favorite Christmas classic, at least in America. Often it is presented instead of a sermon at Christmas services. Lantern pictures have been prepared to accompany the story, and it has also been arranged as a pageant. The tale has been published in German, French, Dutch, Swedish, Spanish, Turkish, Japanese and Chinese.

Dr. van Dyke has written many stories, but no long novel. His poetry and prose readily lend themselves to quotation. Thus selections from his writings frequently appear upon calendars and illuminated cards. Of such material the best known is his "Footpath to Peace."

Amid such diversified activities Dr. van Dyke still finds time to reply to a flood of correspondence on all manner of questions. When it was proposed some years ago to change the name of Jenkintown to something more euphonious and befitting the modern spirit of suburbanization, someone wrote to Dr. van Dyke for his opinion, because his father had been born there. His reply was:

"I can see no reason why the name of Jenkintown should be changed. Probably it has some historical connection, which it would be a pity to lose for the sake of any fancied picturesque improvement in the way of melodious nomenclature. There is more real romance in one historic association than in any quantity of fanciful embroideries. A name which does not fit very easily into esthetic verse may go very well in plain and pleasant prose, and, after all, it is in prose that most of our life expresses itself."

The Germantown house in which Henry van Dyke was born at the time it served as the Presbyterian parsonage was later the rectory of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, the Presbyterians having moved to a new church on Cheltenham avenue. The Rev. Dr. John K. Murphy, rector of St. Michael's and much beloved in Germantown, lived in the house from 1867 until his death, in 1900. After 1829 the house was for a time the home of the late Rev. John W. Bayley, pastor of the Germantown Mennonite Church. Mr. Bayley's two daughters are the present occupants.

EDWARD W. HOCKER.

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For several generations the van Dyke family had lived in the neighborhood of New Brunswick, N. J., but the grandfather of Dr. Henry van Dyke spent most of his life in Philadelphia, where he was a practicing physician. The grandfather,

Dr. Frederick A. van Dyke, who was born a student in New Brunswick in 1788 and studied at Princeton College, came to Philadelphia as a student in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania. There one of his preceptors was the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Rush. After graduating, in 1810, Dr. van Dyke began practicing medicine in Jenkintown, then part of Abington township, in Montgomery county. The home of the family for at least part of the time they lived here was at York road and Washington lane, at the southern borders of the present borough of Jenkintown. There Henry Jackson van Dyke, father of the Dr. Henry van Dyke of today, was born March 2, 1822.

Dr. Frederick A. van Dyke himself did not become a member of the Abington Church, though his wife joined in 1831 and his son, Frederick, aged 14, was baptized the following year. Then in 1834 the son, Henry J., appeared before the vestry for examination for admission to the church, but the minutes record that "in consequence of his extreme youth and some other circumstances peculiar to his case it was resolved that he be requested to delay his application until our next communion season."

The future moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly did not renew his application in the Abington Church. The family removed to Philadelphia about that time, and later Henry J. van Dyke was a student at the University of Pennsylvania, and after graduating there, in 1843, he studied theology at Yale and Princeton.

Philadelphia city directories show that Dr. Frederick A. van Dyke first lived at Hanover and Prince streets, in Kensington, and then for many years at 26 Montgomery square, a thoroughfare from Tenth and Cherry streets to Eleventh and Race streets which was obliterated long ago. In the fifties and sixties his home was at No. 1036 Race street. He died in 1867.

Dr. Frederick A. van Dyke named his oldest son Rush, for his distinguished medical preceptor. He had five sons and three daughters. He owned large tracts of land in and about New Brunswick, N. J., which he had inherited from his father,

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EDWARD W. HOCKER.

J.P.

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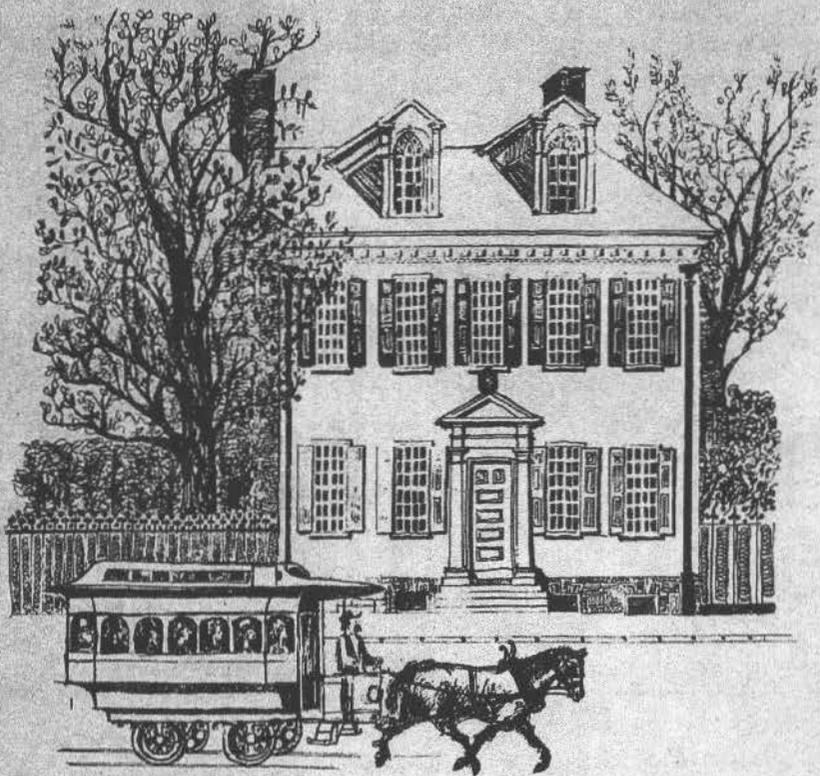
Dr. Frederick A. van Dyke named his oldest son Rush, for his distinguished medical preceptor. He had five sons and three daughters. He owned large tracts of land in and about New Brunswick, N. J., which he had inherited from his father, and these lands he bequeathed to certain of his children and grandchildren. To his son, Henry J., the Presbyterian divine, he willed a single-barreled shotgun which he had received from his brother, and the recipient was directed to give the gun to one of his sons.

After he was seventy years old Dr. Frederick A. van Dyke identified himself with the church at Broad and Sanson streets of which the Rev. Dr. John Chambers was pastor. At that time this congregation was not formally aligned with Presbyterianism because Dr. Chambers declined to assent to all the doctrines of the Westminster Confession, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but in 1873 the pastor and the congregation were admitted into the Presbyterian fold and the church was named Chambers Presbyterian Church. For many years Dr. Henry J. van Dyke was a leader in the movement in the Presbyterian Church to bring about a revision of the Westminster Confession, and his son, Dr. Henry van Dyke, likewise has always been outspoken in urging less rigorous doctrinal standards.

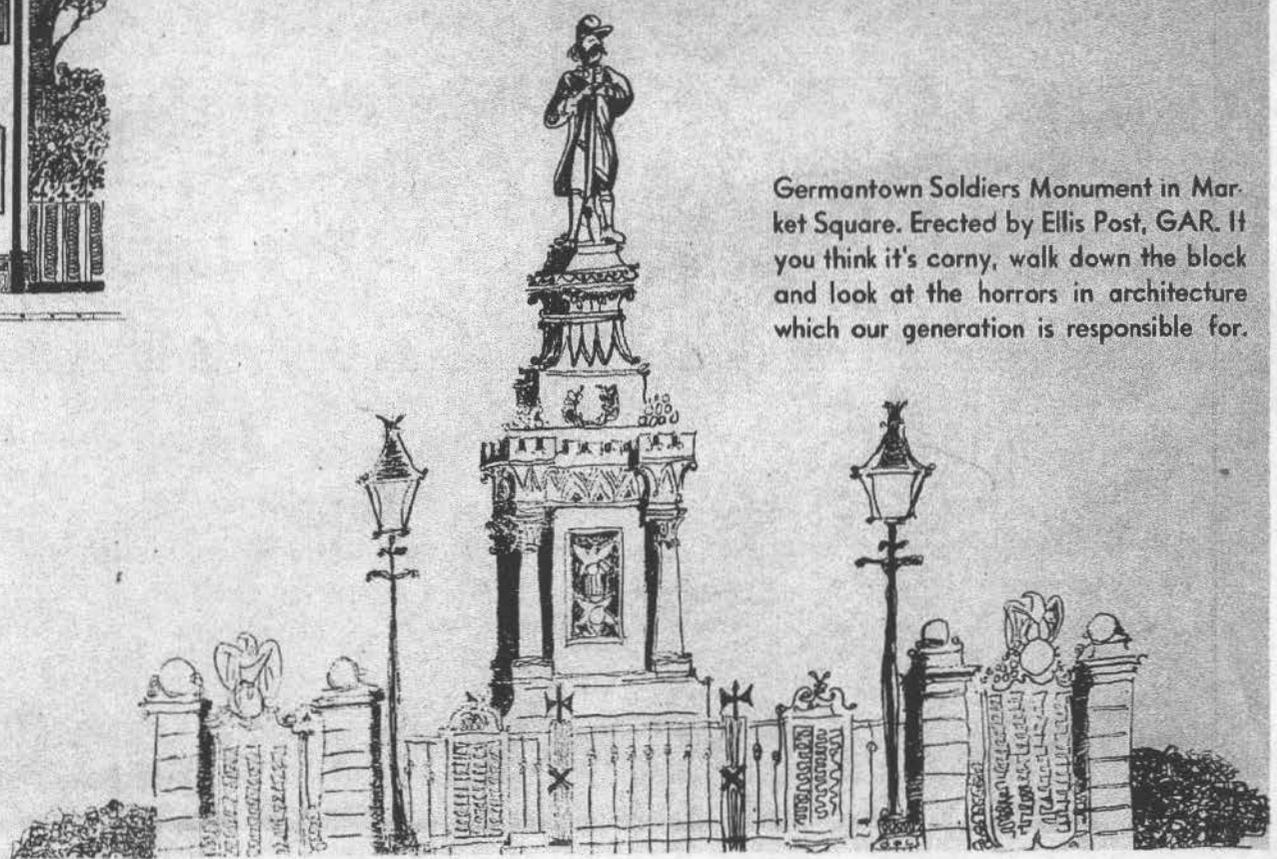
Dr. Henry J. van Dyke married Henrietta Ashmead, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lehman Ashmead, representatives of a family identified with Philadelphia and Germantown from earliest times.

The van Dyke lineage in America goes back to Jan Thomasse van Dyke, who came to New York, then New Amsterdam, from Amsterdam in Holland, in 1632, with his wife and

Bendiners



The Perot-Morris-Deshler house is not so important architecturally, but it gained fame as General Howe's (British) headquarters. General George Washington occupied it during the yellow fever plague in Philadelphia.



Germantown Soldiers Monument in Market Square. Erected by Ellis Post, GAR. If you think it's corny, walk down the block and look at the horrors in architecture which our generation is responsible for.

29a

Germantown

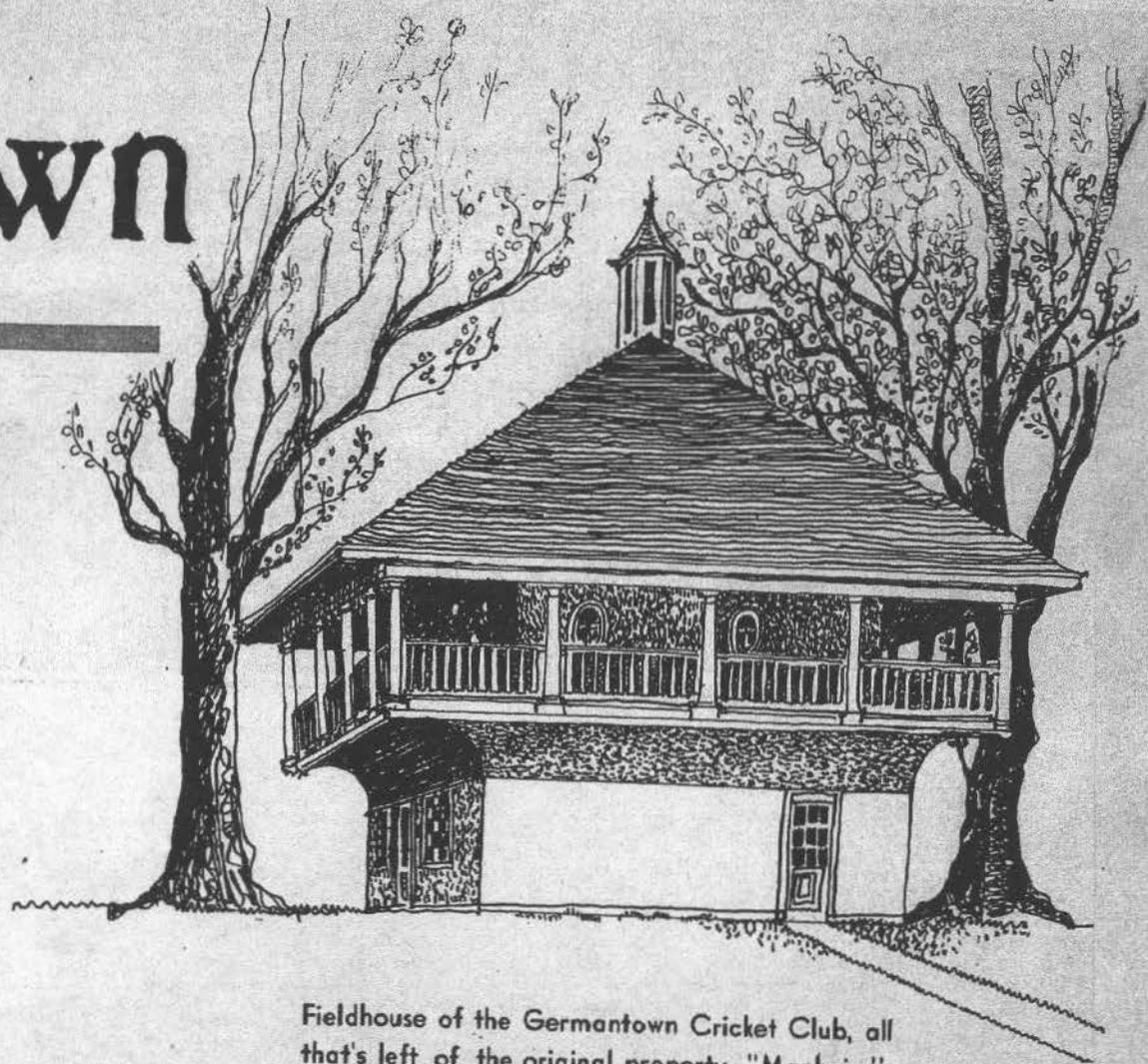
GERMANTOWN, I love you . . . and all I can wish is that the City Planners stay down in Society Hill and leave you to enjoy your heritage and a few isolated examples of progress, you should please excuse the expression.

I guess it was wonderful when Op den Graeff and Pastorius and Rittenhouse arrived. But then George Washington set up housekeeping with the Continental Congress right after General Grant pushed him out of the Chew Mansion. He found the air salubrious, and so have a lot of other Philadelphians.

Well, here we are celebrating the 279th anniversary of the founding, so naturally I went back the other week to see if it was all still wide avenues and trees. It isn't all quite the same, but then neither am I.

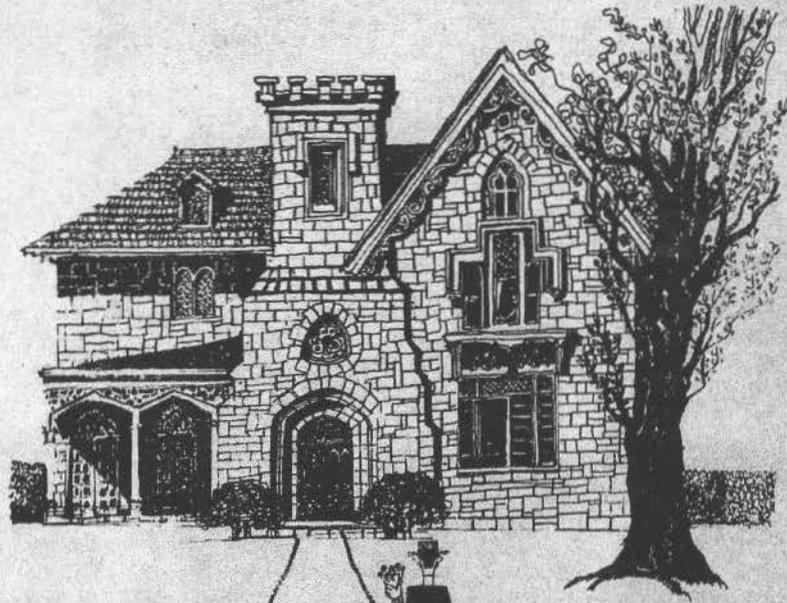
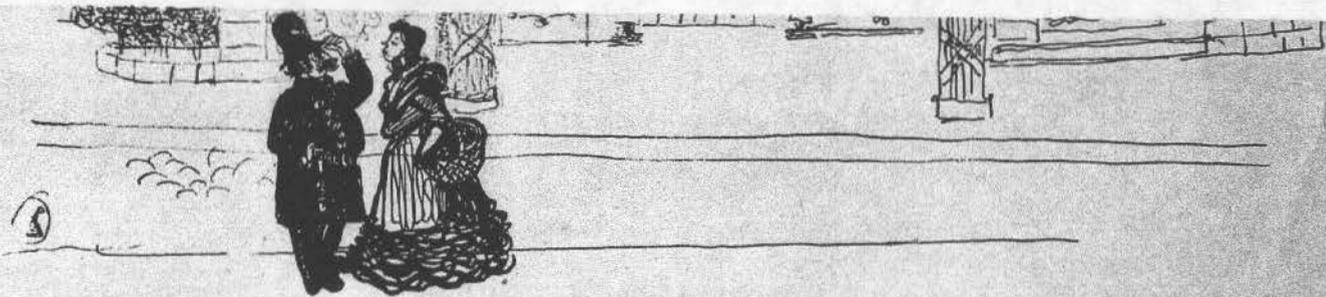
Back there about 1864, Germantown Avenue was Main Street and there was Jimmie Jones for dry goods, Rowells for sixty-nine-cent shirtwaists, Darrow for hardware, stationery at T. D. Carson, Bieringles for hard candies, Harkinsons for chocolate eclairs and strawberry ice cream, and Pletchers for fine groceries with open bins of shelled almonds, ripe for stealing.

And the tennis matches with Bill Tilden and Suzanne Lenglen, Norris Williams, Bill Clothier, Borotra and Chiya Kumagae. Cricket at Manheim watching Reynolds Brown and Jim Magil. Germantown Academy massacre Germantown Friends. or was it the other way round?



Fieldhouse of the Germantown Cricket Club, all that's left of the original property, "Manheim".

The Orpheum Theatre. Barocco Rococo, wedding cake-encrusted "Early Boom" architecture which has survived stock companies, vaudeville, movies.



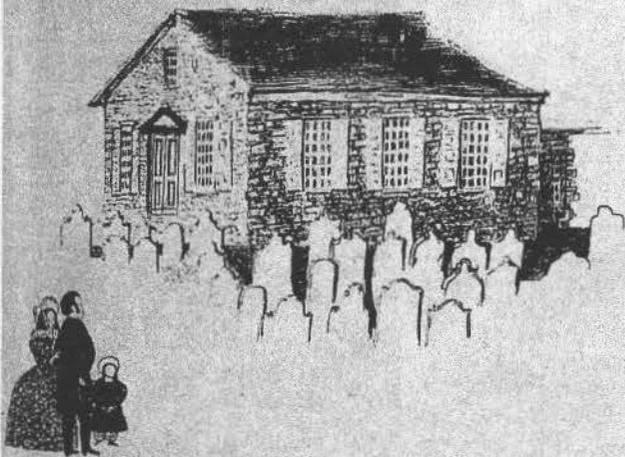
On West Walnut Lane: American Gothic, with the romantic quality of leaded glass, candlelight and the rustle of petticoats.



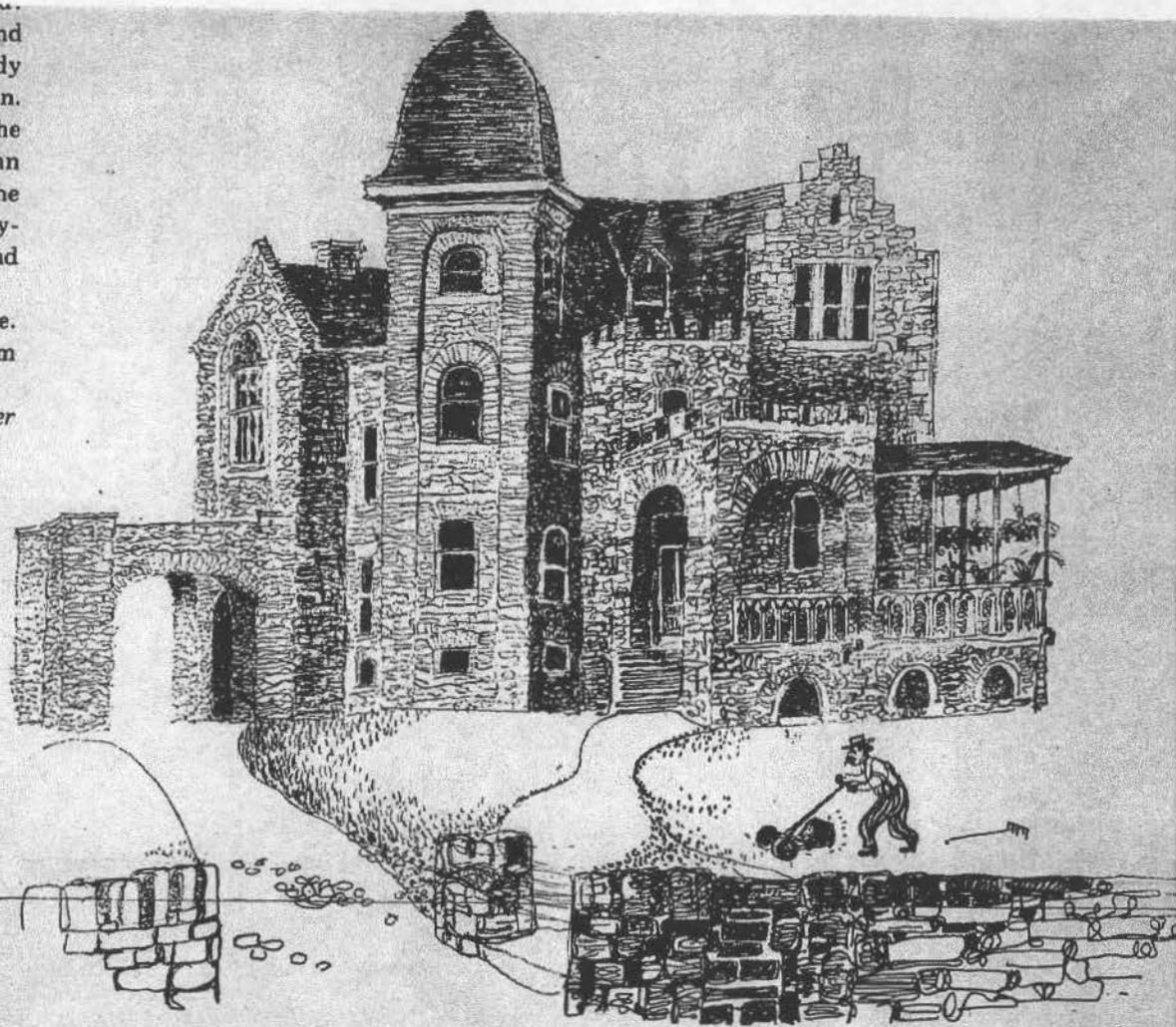
Sleigh rides to Valley Green, Indian Head Rock and beautiful monument to Pastorius in Vernon Park. Hurdy duques and hokey pokeys. The mess house and Cliveden. Jorden, Carlton, Bob Riggs and his snakes and trains. The Germantown Boys Club and Cornelius Weygant. John Harbeson and his chess collection and the Society of the Jolly Grapefruit. Sunday afternoons at The Campbells playing croquet. Trolley cars, starched, white, long dresses and hair ribbons, ice cream pants and boater straws.

And Peace—calme, goode, olde, straighte-laced Peace. Ah me, and I guess that entitles me to a free ride from Kirk and Nice.

—Alfred Bendiner



Germantown Mennonite Church, 1770, is typical of early Germantown design with random, unsurfaced stone walls relieved with simple white woodwork.



Early Twentieth-Century, retired-banker, Heidelberg architecture: a rusticated castle with towers and turrets, porte-cochere and lace curtains, dark furniture and dark oak woodwork.

The Penn Germania
Feb. 1912

OUR HISTORIC HERITAGE

Articles giving information about the history of the Germans in the United States from the arrival of the first immigrant to the present, of whatever section of our country, of whatever vocation of life, of whatever class or association, of whatever period in a man's life, as well as discussions of questions of the day so far as German ideals have bearing on these, are to appear under this general head.

Heivert Papen and the Papen House of Germantown, Pa.



Germantown belongs the distinction of being the first permanent German settlement in America. Thither came in the fall of 1683, Abraham Op den Graeff, Herman Op den Graeff, Lenart Arets, Jan Seimens, Willem Streypers, Jan Lensen, Dirck Op den Graeff, Thones Kunders, Reynier Tyson, Jan Lucken, Johannes Bleikers, Peter Keurlis, Abraham Tunes, with their families from Crefeldt on the Rhine. They reached Philadelphia October 6, 1683, their leader, Francis Daniel Pastorius, having preceded them by about six weeks, as the agent of the Frankfort Land Company which was the original purchaser of the Germantown tract from Penn. On October 24th these German Emigrants met in the cave of Pastorius and drew lots for their separate portions to avoid any ill feeling in the distribution.

The lots were rather narrow but stretched back for a long distance from what eventually became the main street of the village, following what was originally an Indian trail. During the years following other Germans came, attracted by the favorable accounts of the new settlement where every individual could carry out unmolested his own ideas of

religious worship. Among these came Heivert Papen in 1685 (from Mülheim in the Palatinate), who in 1698 according to the stone in the gable, erected what is claimed to have been the first stone house in Philadelphia, but without doubt the first stone house in Germantown. It was built on the side lot appurtenant to town lot toward Schuylkill No. 8, in the first drawing of the lots. The lot and side lot were conveyed by Abraham Op den Graeff to Jacob Schumacher on March 4, 1685, who in 1693 conveyed both lots to Heivert Papen. In 1705 Heivert Papen conveyed the side lot to Samuel Richardson, Richard Townsend, Thomas Lotts and Samuel Cost who were trustees for the Quaker meeting.

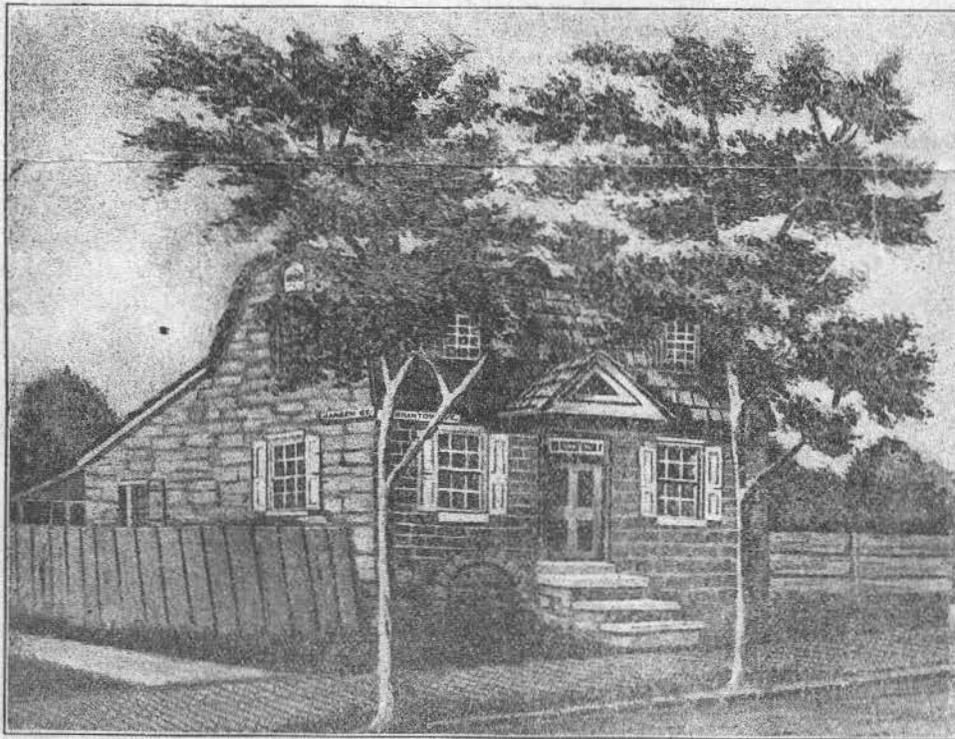
In 1714 Heivert Papen still owned lot No. 10. In 1766 Lot No. 10 was owned by Dr. Bensell, Alsentz, Jacob Coleman, John Johnson, Richard Johnson, Hesser Kast, etc., showing that between 1714 and 1766 the original Papen lot had been divided.

The Papen House is known as one of the best examples of our early Colonial Dutch architecture and stood on the corner of what is now known as Johnson Street, nearly opposite an old well on the Chew property which was filled up when Johnson Street was cut

through. A noted architect once said that the masonry in Germantown was the best in the United States, a statement which was confirmed when the old house was torn down in 1883; so solid was the masonry that it had to be blown down with dynamite.

In the early part of the eighteenth

century the house came into the possession of the Johnson family who had changed their name from Jansen, and henceforth it was known as the Johnson House. During the battle of Germantown, Colonel Thomas Proctor planted two cannon directly in front of this house in order to silence the musketry



THE PAPEN HOUSE

of the British who had taken refuge in the Chew House. A picture of the Papen House was drawn and engraved for the "Sunday Dispatch" expressly to illustrate Westcott's History of Philadelphia, Vol. I, page 111. This history is in the Philadelphia Library.

Heivert Papen, with 64 others, was naturalized in 1691 under Thomas Lloyd, Deputy Governor. He was one of the signers of the application for a charter to have Germantown organized as a borough, which charter was granted May 31, 1691, when Francis Daniel Pastorius was chosen Bailiff or Burgess, and

Heivert Papen as one of the Committeemen or Council. The corporation was maintained until January 11, 1707, but always with considerable difficulty in getting offices filled. Says Loper: "They would do nothing but work and pray, and their mild consciences made them opposed to the swearing of oaths, and would not suffer them to use harsh weapons against trespassers, and Heivert Papen, in 1701, declined to be Burgess through conscientious scruples."

In Pennypacker's Germantown we read: "Another arrival of importance was that of William Ruttinghuysen (Rit-

tenhouse), a Mennonite minister, who with his sons Gerhard, Klaus (Nicholas) and a daughter Elizabeth, who later married Heivert (Howard) Papen, came from Braich, in Holland."

As Heivert Papen married Elizabeth Rittenhouse soon after her arrival with her father, he no doubt became completely absorbed in the Mennonite church and his record was lost to posterity with that of all the other Mennonites. "The records of the Mennonite church at Germantown were loaned to a man for taking historical sketches and he moved away forgetting to return them; in that manner they lost their records for the period from 1708 to 1770."

Heivert Papen's will was dated January 30, 1707-8, and was witnessed February 19, 1707-8. He was survived by his wife Elizabeth Rittenhouse Papen and five daughters: Styntia, Mary, Gertrude, Margaret and Elizabeth, who was not of age. *Styntie*, or Christina, received seventy-five pounds over and above her equal share with her sisters and died unmarried about 1728.

Mary, born about 1695, married Gerhard Brumbaugh, who, according to official records, lived in Philadelphia county as late as 1721, but in 1724 paid taxes in Vincent township, Chester County, Pa. He took up over one thousand acres of land, a part of which he

gave for Brownback's church, and over 300 acres of which have never passed out of the family, but are still held under the first deed signed by Penn. Gerhard Brumbaugh and Mary Papen, his wife, left children: Benjamin, married Elizabeth Paul; Henry, married Mary Magdalene Paul; Elizabeth, married Richard Custer; Anna, married Paul Benner; Catherine, married Jacob Mausher; Mary, married Frederick Bingamon.

Gertrude, third daughter of Heivert Papen and Elizabeth Rittenhouse, married Benjamin Howell, of Germantown, July 19, 1721, and according to will recorded in Book Q, page 43, Philadelphia, had no children.

Margaret, married Jacob Shimer (born 1679; died Sept. 17, 1757) and left six children: 1, Abraham; 2, Anthony; 3, Elizabeth (married Dickerson); 4, Mary (m. Shoemaker); 5, Catherine (m. Young); 6, Sarah. Jacob Shimer married a second wife, Elizabeth—and left 7 sons. In the year 1736 Jacob Scheimer moved from Skippack to a plantation situated on the southern slope of the South Mountain below Bethlehem.

Elizabeth, fifth daughter of Heivert Papen and Elizabeth Rittenhouse, married Jan Jansen Dec. 29, 1719, in the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. She died prior to 1728.

G. E. Brownback, Linfield, Pa.

**Unique Protest
Against Sermon**

That is an interesting story which comes from Germany. It is to the effect that a company of imperial troops marched out of a religious service as a protest against the unevangelical and doubt-breeding sermon that was being preached. In one of the garrison towns the officers marched their troops to the church as usual for the Sunday service. The preacher for the morning happened to be a certain Pastor Kraatz, a very lib-

eral gentleman. When this Pastor Kraatz began to criticise the authorities for removing an atheist preacher from his pulpit in Cologne, the sturdy soldiers began to show signs of uneasiness. And when the preacher continued his apology for unbelief and finally declared that "No one longer believes in the old way that the Bible is the Word of God," the officers gave a signal and the whole body of troops rose to their feet and marched out of the building.



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a German, were the two staunch characters who nobly risked martyrdom by "staying by the stuff," dangerous and ghastly though it was, and took care of the victims of the dread disease. President Washington found his residence here so pleasant that he engaged the house as a summer home for a few weeks beginning the first of July, 1794.

WASHINGTONS' ADOPTED SON IN GERMANTOWN

In 1794 the Washingtons' adopted children (Martha's grandchildren), Miss Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, were with them, so George Washington Parke Custis attended Germantown Academy, of which the main building, then thirty-three years old, had been offered for the use of Congress in 1793. A professor in this school was the distinguished author of a "Comprehensive View of Philosophical, Political and Theological Systems, from the Creation to the Present Time," as well as of the "Only True Guide to the English Grammar." It is said that the first President was attracted by the following "ad" in *The Pennsylvania Gazette*:

"The Curriculum includes French, Latin, Greek, Hebrew and other Oriental Languages, the Philosophical Sciences and all the Branches of a common and Liberal Education, taught on an Improved Plan, in the most Expeditious Manner, in a Way both Scientific and Applicable to Practice in Human Life, etc., etc., etc."

IN THEIR CHARIOT AND AT CHURCH

President and "Lady" Washington deputed themselves in that high official position with formal dignity which would not be approved of today. If the Washingtons' "chariot," with coachmen, footmen and out-riders in scarlet-and-white livery, drawn by six cream-white "chargers" with "coats" glistening like satin because the beautiful animals had been plastered overnight with white paste; then their hoofs were blacked and polished; their mouths washed, their teeth brushed and picked; their glittering harnesses adorned with leopard-skin trappings and embellished with cupids and bows, arrows and wreaths—if the children of Germantown today should see the equipage which the Washingtons drove from the Morris House to the opening of Congress at Independence Hall, they would think a circus had come to town. That was the difference between Colonial times and the dark turnouts people of the present day are accustomed to seeing.

So strict was President Washington in the matter of church-going that when the clock struck ten on Sunday morning the front doors of the Residency were thrown open and President and "Lady" Washington, with Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, and their guests, attendants and servants, colored as well as white, marched across Market Square to the "Dutch" (German) Reformed Church. What mattered it when the service was held in German, which neither the President nor his youngest slave understood? German or no German, the first President was bound to set a proper example. And it was said that many people contented themselves with witnessing the presidential progress across the square without entering the sanctuary and sitting through a long German service.

While the Washingtons' steward, "Black Sam" Fraunces, went to the "butcher, the baker and candlestick maker" in the presidential behoof, there were two places which it suited the Presi-

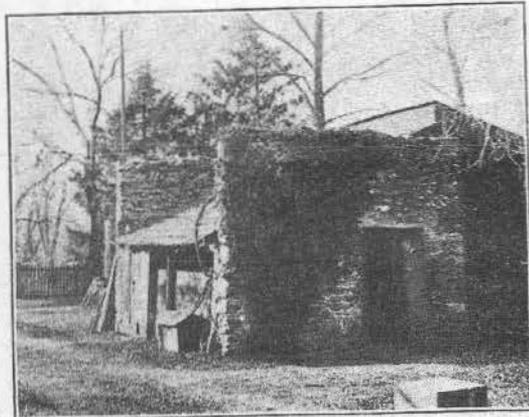


dent to visit—namely, Fraley's carpenter shop and Bringhurst's blacksmith shop, both located near where St. Stephen's M. E. Church now stands. It is said that Bringhurst had the distinguished honor of building a "chariot" for "the General."

There is nothing remaining unto this day which gives a more adequate conception of the manner in which the high-and-mighty Washington was revered than the flat tombstone of Christopher Ludwick, "Baker-General to General Washington," in St. Michael's churchyard, at the corner of Germantown Avenue and Phil-Ellena Street. That epitaph is a carven combination of poster and sermon.

SITTING FOR HIS PORTRAIT

Perhaps the most important personal happening to Washington in Germantown was his sitting to Gilbert Stuart for the famous portrait through which his face became known to posterity. About being "broken" to give these sittings, Washington wrote humorously of himself: "At first I was impatient at the request and as restive under the operation as a colt is of the saddle. The next time I submitted very reluctantly, but with less flouncing. Now no dray-horse moves more readily to his thill [shafts] than I do to the painter's chair."



REAR OF 5140 MAIN STREET
Part of a barn, fitted up for a studio by Gilbert Stuart, in which he painted the celebrated portrait of Washington which is now in the Athenaeum in Boston. Watson in his Annals states that Gilbert also painted here the portrait of the Indian Chief Cornplanter.
—Photograph Courtesy of Mr. John G. Bullock

But Gilbert Stuart said his distinguished visitor never learned to enjoy sitting to be painted and that the only way to change Washington's expression from discontent to animation was to talk to him about horses.

While Washington's portraits make him appear cold and distant, he was a most human, lovable man. His biographers, instead of showing how simple and great-hearted Washington really was, tried to make him out a sort of demigod or un-human being. In addition to all these unfavorable circumstances he was a great sufferer from bad teeth. Sometimes he had to tread his measure in the stately minuet with his swollen face tied up with a kerchief about the size of a small tablecloth till he looked very like that familiar "ad" which bears the legend, "A Swell Affair."
A jawache, limiting his semi-official utterances

(continued on page 15)

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Why Germantowners Should Buy in Germantown

Of the fifteen excellent "stories" received those reported below received the prizes in the order named. Because of the uniform merit of the articles it was exceedingly difficult to select the best six—three for prizes and three for honorable mention—for all were deserving of special mention. It was heartily interesting to notice that several of the "stories" were written by children and one at least was composed by an octogenarian. This is as it should be—there is no age limit among the best Germantowners.

First Prize, Lucy Morgan. Second, Gtn. 0382 J. Third, Amy Tomlinson. Honorable Mention—A Germantowner, Stella Davidson, A. Bardsley.

Ted Proves It Pays to Buy In Germantown

"OSHAU!" said Marian, as she hung up the receiver with a jerk. "Peg always does a trick like this." "Why, dear, what is wrong now?" said Marian's mother, "and what trick has Peg been doing again?"

"She promised to go shopping with me today and it is just 12:30 now and she calls up to say the 'boss' has given her a lot of dictation and she just *must* stay to finish it. She's sorry! That doesn't do me any good now. She knew right well I wanted that dress to go to that dance in Pelham tonight."

"What's wrong with our stores right here in Germantown?" said Ted, Marian's "kid" brother, as he pondered over the composition he was writing for THE BEEHIVE. "You never see a fellow running to town every time he wants a little thing. He marches out to Germantown Avenue, goes into a store, sees what he wants, and presto! he has the goods right away!"

"Ted, instead of raving about buying in Germantown and trying to write things that you know aren't true, you should be cleaning the snow off the sidewalks, or at least be minding your own business. You're right when you said Germantown is good for little things. Well, I guess I might as well take a look around those poky shops and see what they have. I know my whole evening will be spoiled. I think Peg—"

"Gee, Sis, if you don't hurry along you won't have time even to look around at the rate you're going."

Ted, glancing out of the window two hours later, saw Marian coming with a large package under her arm.

"Hello, old grouch," he called; "so you took my advice and bought something in Germantown for once, didn't you?"

"Well, Ted, you were right! I found exactly what I wanted here at home. The salesgirls were lovely. They didn't try to stick any old thing on me just to make a sale. I never saw such courtesy! And, mother, I just know you won't believe me, but I didn't pay a cent more for it here in Germantown than I would have in town, and I've saved both time and carfare too. Why, just look at the quality of it, mother. I must call Peg right away and tell the good news."

"Yes," said Ted, "but go ahead, call Peg and close the door on your way out; I want to finish this composition. Now, where was I—I have the courtesy of the salespeople—Sis has proved that they *are* courteous. The goods have the personal guarantee of the merchant from whom they are purchased. No long rides in a cold trolley in winter and a stuffy car in summer—no more



Washington in Germantown

to the muffled "woof-woof" of a swollen countenance, was not chastening enough for the first President, for, more terrible than the toothache was the primitive dentistry of the Colonial Period, as a set of custom-made artificial teeth on exhibition at Mount Vernon still testifies. That upper plate might have been fashioned by Bringhurst's apprentice. The most expert dentist in Washington's time couldn't get a job in Germantown today as a plumber's helper. Whenever the first President tried to laugh, that clumsy contraption tumbled down on his tongue, which had to suspend linguistic operations and chuck it back into the roof of his mouth. To have an infernal machine like that, lying in wait to drop and cut off the conversation must have been a discourager of mirthfulness—the more so because Washington was, at best, diffident and slow of speech.

To return to the temporary studio which Stuart had fitted up over a stable not far from Bringhurst's carriage shop. In order to get a "speaking likeness" of the patient sitter, those unspeakable "false" teeth were removed and several wads of cotton batting substituted to fill out the face to the proper presidential proportions. It serves to convey some conception of the stoic heroism of the Father of his Country that, in spite of the cotton "dam" and cofferdam inside, he manifested no sign of profanity outside.

Gilbert Stuart never quite finished his original portrait of Washington, but he is said to have executed no less than eighty completed copies of it at the very low price of one hundred dollars each, for he once facetiously called a copy of that picture his "\$100-bill." There is a fine steel engraving from this same portrait on the new Federal Reserve one-dollar note—which, if he were with us today, the original painter would doubtless resent as "a shameful mark-down."

GREAT THINGS PLANNED AND DONE IN GERMANTOWN

Great affairs came up for consideration during the terrible days which Washington spent in Germantown. As Congress could not be convened till the pestilence in Philadelphia had subsided, the Cabinet meetings of the first President were of the gravest importance. "Ninety-three," the summer of the yellow plague in Philadelphia, was the year when the Red Terror in France reached its height. The French Revolutionists sent a minister named Genet to the young American republic. Thomas Jefferson, Washington's Secretary of State, was in favor of giving recognition to the French libertines and, in a pinch, Edmund Randolph sided with Jefferson. Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, and Henry Knox, Secretary of War, sympathized with Washington, as the so-called freedom of the French seemed to them but unbridled license. This feud between Hamilton and Jefferson kept President Washington in hot water. "Citizen" Genet became so bumptious and insolent that Washington finally had to squelch him. This gave offense to many "liberty lovers" in America. About this time someone showed the President a caricature of himself as king being guillotined, as Louis XVI had lately suffered, on the scaffold. At sight of this pictorial diatribe, entitled "The Funeral of Washington," the first President flew into a passion and informed the Cabinet that he had regretted allowing himself to be re-

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ected but once—"and that was every moment since!" He continued wrathfully:

"I had rather be in my grave than in my present situation; I had rather be on my farm than to be made emperor of the world; and yet they are charging me with wanting to be a king!"

Besides his refusal to break the treaty of neutrality which had been signed with Great Britain, Washington backed up the Jay Treaty which was under consideration during the President's summer stay in Germantown. Popular feeling was so strongly in favor of French republicanism that a mob gathered around the house and threatened to drag the President out and start a revolution in favor of France against England.

Even while President Washington was sojourning in Germantown, the Philadelphia Directory gave his address thus:

"Washington, George, 190 High Street."

This was the number of the Robert Morris house on what is now called Market Street, near Sixth. That building has long been demolished, but the Germantown "Morris House" remains almost as it was 125 years ago. The Cabinet meetings held at the Germantown residence often adjourned for four-o'clock dinner. At table the conversation was social, as becoming "gentlemen of the old school," of whom the President was a most illustrious exponent.

After the simple meal the Cabinet returned to the fray. At one meeting they discussed what they might do toward rescuing young Lafayette, who had been driven from France by the Reds and was then immured in an Austrian dungeon. At another time the President laid before them a project for establishing (in 1794) a military school at West Point. While in the Germantown "White House" Washington planned certain details of the new "palace" in the Federal City, then under construction, and named Washington for him.

FIRST TAX ON WHISKY AND "MOONSHINERS"

Several years before this it was decided to tax all liquors distilled in the United States. This roused the wrath of distillers and farmers west of the Alleghany Mountains who converted their corn into whisky because they could not ship it over the mountains. The taxing of liquors excited the rage of many citizens—it was not called "booze" then—and they laughed at the very idea of "drinking down the national debt." This act was the means of starting the secret distillers of liquor called "moonshiners" because they worked by moonlight.

There was an uprising in Western Pennsylvania known as the Whisky Rebellion. President Washington raised a small army and placed in command of it Governor Henry Lee, of Virginia. This gentleman was the gallant "Light-horse Harry" of the Revolution who, twelve years later, became the father of Robert E. Lee. The old general accompanied the young officer nearly all the way to the western part of the State. The insurrection was quelled without bloodshed.

It was "Light-horse Harry" Lee who, as Member of Congress, delivered, in the House of Representatives, December 26th, 1799, (twelve days after Washington's death) the famous eulogy in which he used for the first time the now-familiar words describing the Father of his Country as:

"First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Our New Municipal Building

Our old Town Hall soon will be no more. The two pictures one of the old hall and the other of the new Municipal Building indicates an improvement brought about largely through the efforts of the Improvement Association. This is one of its greatest achievements, and came to be realized after many years of consistent effort. The contract has been awarded and work already begun, at an approximate cost of \$450,000.

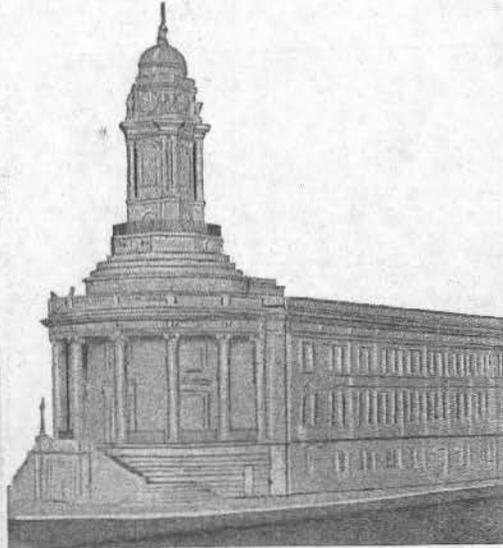
Shall we continue the detail of just what the Improvement Association has accomplished? Shall we tell of the miles of streets resurfaced



OLD TOWN HALL

#

Germ'twn Bulletin 9/15/32



NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING

at its suggestion, sewers built, electric and gas lamps erected, police and fire conditions improved, water supply conditions remedied; of suggestions to the Survey Bureau as new streets are laid out, shade trees cared for or removed when a menace; of parks and playgrounds secured wholly or in part by the influence of the Association—surely our readers agree that a comprehensive article to include all that has been accomplished in the sixteen years of history would be interesting to a degree, but would be like reading an outline of hundreds upon hundreds of detailed facts and figures. Such an outline article would lack the interest of a narrative and we do not venture to tire you by imposing further details on your good natures. If you believe that we have run out of facts and figures, stop in the office at the Vernon Building and look over the volumes of minutes of the numerous meetings, not only of the Association but of the auxiliary committee, and the many and various other committees, not to mention the personal notes of the special representative. The mere mention of the possibility of the time one would need to take to delve through the volumes of material, without doubt is sufficient to frighten the most skeptical into believing that the few facts already presented do not much more than make a good beginning for the volume that should be written of the work accomplished.

Who's Who



SAMUEL EMLEN

Photo by Pott

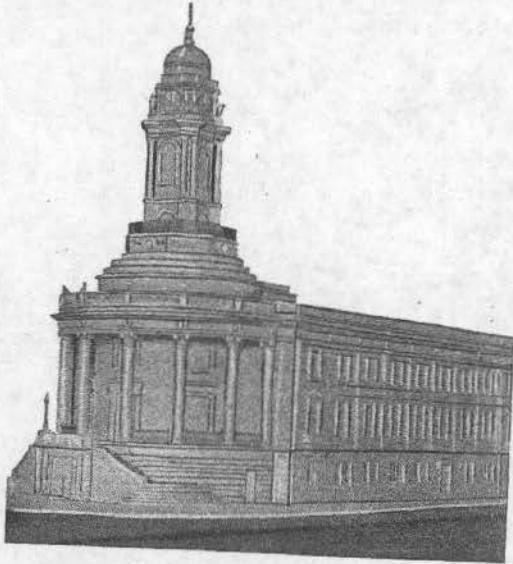
Samuel Emlen, treasurer of the Germantown Mutual Fire Insurance Company, was born here and attended the Germantown Friends School. He is a realtor, with offices at 33 Maplewood avenue. In addition to his other activities, Mr. Emlen is a member of the Business Men's Association of Germantown, having been president of that organization in 1923. He is a member of the Germantown Historical Society, of which he was president from 1926 until 1931; a trustee of Bryn Mawr College, a director of the Germantown Trust Company, manager of the Friends' Hospital, director of the Y. M. C. A., trustee of the Grandon Institute and is a member of the Art and Pastors Clubs and the Germantown and Chestnut Hill Improvement Association. He lives at 943 East Haines street.

The Passing of the Old Town Hall

By CHARLES F. JENKINS

THE satisfaction of our citizens in the erection of the new Town Hall on Main Street and West Haines Street is mingled with just a little feeling of regret that the old Hall must go. To three generations of Germantown men and women it has been a familiar landmark. For two generations the silvery tones of its clock-bell have marked the hours of gladness and sorrow through storm and sunshine. In its day the old Town Hall was considered an imposing building, but in recent years its generally forlorn and run-down condition and the inconvenience of its hall have been a serious drawback to its civic usefulness.

For nearly one and three-quarters centuries Germantown had a separate corporate existence with Burgesses and Councilmen, with a town



Proposed New Town Hall

lock-up and all the machinery of an independent municipality.

The passage of the Consolidation Act of February 2, 1854, by which the city became co-extensive with the County of Philadelphia, brought many changes to Germantown. Up to that time there had been outside the city, nine incorporated districts, six boroughs, of which Germantown was one, and thirteen townships. At that time Old Germantown was divided into a borough, which embraced the territory up to Washington Lane, and Germantown Township, which included the portion north of Washington Lane.

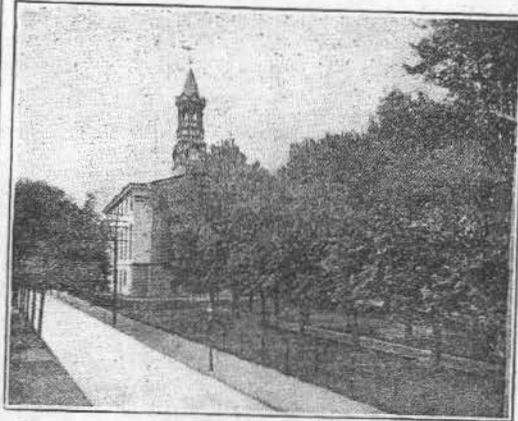
The few years before the passage of the Act of Consolidation witnessed an orgy of spending of public money. Each district borough and township, knowing that the consolidated city would assume its debts, hastened to spend all it could on public improvements. Within thirty days of the passage of the act by the Legislature four and one-half millions were added to the burden to be assumed by the city. So great was

over

lion, however, one of the military hospitals was clustered around it, named the Cuyler Hospital. Here the good women of Germantown found abundant opportunity to exercise their kindly sympathies, and several of our old-time doctors devoted their talents to the relief of the suffering.

The old Town Hall has never been a handsome building, and in recent years the silver maples in the front yard have hidden it. It has thus seemed remote and rather dark and forbidding. It seems to have been a mistake to have set it so far back from the Avenue. It gave it an air of aloofness, as if apart from the bustle and hum of the busy life of the town.

There will be some who will be sorry to see it go. The few old veterans of Ellis Post who had their meeting-place there for many years will particularly mourn its passing. But its roots do not go back to colonial times; it has had but little



Old Town Hall

to do with the growth and life of the town, and, like a worn and patched garment, it can and will be thrown aside with but little of regret. This feeling, though, will not apply to the clock and bell which have endeared themselves to all of us. It is presumed that in the new and modern buildings they are to continue their faithful service for generations yet to be.



Bulletin 9/17/32

One Hundred Years Ago

(From the Germantown Telegraph of September 17, 1832)

Mr. Editor:

AS the completion of the rail road to the turnpike in this village is now fast approaching I would respectfully beg leave to offer a suggestion to the company which, if adopted, must result greatly to their own advantage, and be of considerable benefit and accommodation to the citizens of Germantown. It is the establishment of two small, say, two-horse stages at the company's expense, to run at such stated hours of the day as would act in conformity with the cars, one of these to proceed up the village as far as might be found practicable and the other to the lower section of the village, in order that all passengers who are disposed to adopt the rail road mode of conveyance might be furnished with every accommodation. Thus, by running at regular stated hours through the village during the day, every person could be in readiness to step into the stage with his baggage and in a few minutes be seated in the splendid cars, thence be wafted to Philadelphia in from 20 to 25 minutes by the most delightful mode of conveyance imaginable. Return passengers would be set down at their dwelling. Whilst the stages are delivering passengers at their homes they would at the same time be collecting others for conveyance.

A Citizen of Germantown.

we need for haste that when the bill passed the Legislature on January 30th, messengers hastened to Erie, where Governor Bigler then was, and three days later the consolidation became effective by his signature.

As early as 1848 the Borough Council of Germantown determined to have a new Town Hall which was to be located on the Market Square, much to the concern of the congregation of the Reformed, now the Market Square Presbyterian Church. They were afraid their light would be cut off and the trees along the sidewalk injured.

It was proposed to make the building forty-three by sixty-four feet, and proposals for a loan of \$10,000.00 were invited. When the bids were opened it was found that but one offer had been made to subscribe for \$150.00 of the bonds. This was rather chilling for the enterprise, and the idea was dropped for some years. Later a tract of land was bought of Samuel Harvey and the Town Hall as we know it today was erected. Perhaps this is not an entirely correct statement, for the original building had a smaller and different steeple from the present one.

In 1875 Henry Seyfert, a public-spirited citizen of Philadelphia, offered to supply a new clock and bell for Independence Hall. The clock then in use had been made by Isaiah Lukens, a celebrated Philadelphia clockmaker of his day, in 1830. It had cost \$2,075.00 and the bell \$2,157.00. There was not much complaint of the old clock, but the offer was a generous one and was consequently accepted. James R. Gates, for many years in City Councils, immediately got busy and, with the aid of influential Germantown citizens, had a resolution passed in Councils to place the discarded bell and clock in the Town Hall of Germantown. In order to accommodate it a new tower had to be built, and this was fully completed and the bell and clock in place in time for the great observance of the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1877.

This was, indeed, one of the red-letter days in Germantown. At 9 o'clock one hundred strokes were given on the bell by W. F. Gamble, and at 12 o'clock noon, G. W. Russell, remembered by many of us, set the clock in motion. There had been an immense parade in the morning, and at 2 o'clock a mass-meeting was held in the Town Hall, at which Judge M. Russell Thayer delivered his great historical account of the battle. To this day it remains the most complete and painstaking recital of the events of that engagement which has made Germantown nationally famous.

When the clock and bell were discarded from Independence Hall they have done good service in Germantown. For fifty-five years the bell has tolled the hours with its singularly soft and silvery note. Indeed it is said one thousand Spanish silver dollars had been melted and poured in the bell metal. A company of Swiss bell-ringers are said to have pronounced it the finest-toned bell they had heard in this country. It had cost the citizens of Germantown between two and three thousand dollars to alter the steeple to accommodate the new bell.

To the present generation the old Town Hall has been known only as a place to pay gas bills and city taxes and as a meeting-place for various political rallies. During the War of the Rebel

(Continued on Page 6)

*Beechey,
November 1922*

Becher
Oct. 1922



Captain Francis Daniel Pastorius

By DR. NAAMAN H. KEYSER

CAPTAIN FRANCIS DANIEL PASTORIUS was the grandson of Daniel Pastorius, who, in turn, was a grandson of Francis Daniel Pastorius, the founder of Germantown. A portrait of him in the possession of one of the family, now living in Olney, is probably the oldest portrait of any member of the Pastorius family.

Francis Daniel Pastorius the First, of whom no known portrait exists, was born in Sommerhausen Franconia, September 26, 1651. He married



Enneke Klosterman, of Mulheim on the Ruhr, in Germantown, November 26, 1688, and the following year built a home on the site (Lot No. 16) towards Bristol, where the First Methodist Episcopal Church now stands. Pastorius died in Germantown December 27, 1719 (according to Francis Daniel Bruner), and lies in an unknown grave.

The Pastoriuses had two children—Johann Samuel (1690-1722) and Heinrich (1692).

We are interested in Johann Samuel, as it was from him that Francis Daniel the Second descended. John Samuel was married May 3, 1716, to Hannah Lukens. This couple had two children—Daniel, born December 22, 1717, and John, born July 16, 1721. Daniel married Sarah Shoemaker February 23, 1743, and in 1748 they built what was afterwards known as the Green Tree Inn. Daniel Pastorius was a saddler by trade, and the hostelry was opened as the "Saddler Arms."

This family had four children—Hannah, born November 17, 1743; Abraham, born October 10, 1745; Daniel, born November 13, 1746, and Samuel, born September 13, 1747.

Daniel Pastorius died in November, 1754, and he left the property to his wife and children. The widow married another saddler, Daniel Mackanet, Jr., who became prominent in the affairs of Germantown. It was at their home that the inhabitants met for the purpose of raising money

to build the Union Schoolhouse, which has since become the Germantown Academy. Daniel Mackanet had a great many curios in the bar-room of the inn, among them a very large hornets' nest, from which the place became known as the "Hornets' Nest." Mrs. Mackanet was noted for her skill as a cook, which accounted for the great popularity of the Inn. It was often referred to as the Great Hotel of Germantown. Daniel Mackanet died October 19, 1761, and his widow married Andrew Heath, of Germantown. Heath purchased the property May 10, 1775, through John Livezey, of Roxborough acting as straw man, from the heirs of Daniel Pastorius, in order to secure a clear title. He in turn sold the property February 16, 1797, to Charles Mackanet for 1,600 pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania.

Daniel Pastorius, the second son, married Elizabeth Mechlin in 1796. They built the house now owned and occupied by Dr. John Howard Frick, 25 High Street. This house has been moved twice, the first time to allow the opening up of High Street, and the second time to get away from the noise of the trolleys. Over the door is an abbreviated portion of the motto Francis Daniel Pastorius, the first, placed over the door of his first home at Fourth and Spruce Streets: "*Procul este profani*" ("the profane shall not enter here").

Samuel Pastorius, the father of the subject of our sketch, married Sarah Lincoln. He was a house carpenter and lived at 95 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia. They had eleven children.

Sarah, who married John Tull and left a long line of descendants:—

Francis Daniel, who followed the sea.
Mary, who married a Mr. Story.

John, who was born on the night of the Battle of Germantown, October 4th, 1777.

(A cousin, Margaret, daughter of Abraham and Eleanor Leech, was born on the same eventful night.)

Ester, who died young.

Samuel, married and lived in Baltimore; left no children.

Rachel, died in childhood.

Ann, married John Allen, died in 1876.

Hannah, died in childhood; and Charles Mackanet, named after the brother of Daniel Mackanet, who became Mrs. Pastorius's second husband.

Francis Daniel was born in 1773; he married Margaret Mickle, and they had one child, Ann Eliza, who married Laurence Shuster, of Spring Garden. Francis Daniel went to sea at an early age and rose rapidly to command. He lost his life at the age of 29 years as captain of the ill-fated "Amiable Creole." A piece of tapestry with a memorial worked upon it in his memory was presented to the Site and Relic Society by Mrs. S. H. Bilyeu, of Wenonah, New Jersey.

Ann Eliza and Laurence Shuster had one child, a daughter, Ann Eliza Pastorius, who married Laurence Shuster Smith, of New York, and they had three children, James Cockcroft Smith, Ann Eliza Shuster Smith and Cornelia Harson Smith, who married Samuel Herbert Bilyeu.

Abraham, another follower of the sea, who also became a captain, married Charlotte Wilson in 1816, and was lost at sea in 1825.

National Bank of Germantown Historical Sketch

MORE than one hundred and eight years of successful business experience in banking is the record of the National Bank of Germantown, for this bank was formally opened for business August 1, 1814. The books of the bank show that on that day money as follows was deposited—\$30,300 for bank stock, \$2,153 of Philadelphia bank notes, \$935 in silver and \$25 in gold.

The enterprising merchants, manufacturers and other citizens of Germantown had organized a movement looking toward the incorporation of a bank as early as January 20, 1814. The meetings were held from time to time in the King of Prussia Tavern. A town meeting was held January 21st and the records state that it was "Numerously attended," probably the old-fashioned winters of long ago had ceased to be even in 1814. After many meetings and further organization, a delegate, Dr. William Runkel, was elected to go to Harrisburg to endeavor to convince the Legislature of the great need of a bank in Germantown. There being no railroads, or improved state roads with autos, the trip of Dr. Runkel was not made so quickly, and when he arrived in Harrisburg the bill to incorporate forty-one banks already had passed the House of Representatives with no mention of a bank for Germantown. Like all good Germantowners of long ago and today, Dr. Runkel was so convincing in his arguments for a Germantown bank that the bill was amended to include one for his town and, though vetoed by the Governor, the bill was finally passed over his veto.

Different Sites of the Bank

The Bank of Germantown was first located in the large private house of Charles Bensell, that



*First Bank Building, 1814 to 1824
On Site of Present Bank

stood on the upper end of the present site of the bank. An idea of the nature of the quarters may be formed by a quotation from the Minutes.

"\$2.25 was paid Eve Haines for cleaning and whitewashing the Directors' room."

April, 1825, the bank moved to the Richard Bayley house, on Germantown Road below East Penn Street. There was no further move till 1868, when the bank occupied a new building next door to their first location. This building cost \$64,640.83, and was a model bank building in every respect. This building has been enlarged twice, first in 1890, at a cost of \$73,000, and in

1908 an addition, 31 feet by 80 feet, which took in the site in which the bank started in 1814, was completed and occupied.

Incorporated as a National Bank

The Bank of Germantown had other charters besides the one secured in 1814. A second charter was granted in 1824 and in 1836 and again in 1849 the charter was extended for fifteen years. The National Bank Act of 1863 caused the officers to seriously consider the advisability of securing a national charter. After much deliberation it was decided to incorporate as a national bank, so after fifty years of honorable history as a state bank, in 1864 it became the National Bank of Germantown.

Hard Times and War Times

Never has the bank closed its doors even temporarily and never has it failed to pay a dividend or meet the demand of any stockholder or depositor. The different panics through which our country has passed all were weathered in a creditable manner by the Bank of Germantown. This is due to the good judgment and conservative acts of its officers.

During the Civil War it is interesting to note that fear was felt for the safety of the bank. When Pennsylvania was invaded by Lee's army, a special meeting of the directors, held June 29, 1863, decided to burn all the bank notes in possession of the bank. Paper with a face value of \$254,200 was burned and specie to the amount of \$48,555.50 was counted in the vaults. Most of this was gold, which was packed in a strong box and shipped by express to New York City, consigned to the Bank of New York. The success of the Union forces at Gettysburg enabled the officers to bring the specie back from New York.

Personnel of the Bank

From the earliest history of the National Bank of Germantown, the leading citizens of Germantown have been shareholders and officers of the bank. In 1814 the first committee to formulate plans for securing a charter consisted of Peter Baynton (chairman), Samuel Harvey, William Davy, Dr. William Runkel, Samuel Mechlin and James Bockius, and the committee to prepare and circulate the petition to the State Legislature consisted of Casper Heft, Thomas Lukens, Dr. Erasmus Thomas, Silas Watson, Jacob Clemens, Thomas Bringham, Samuel Keyser, Conrad Carpenter, Robert Thomas, John Wilson, William Stewart, George Hanto, Jacob Somers, Jr., William Sinclair, Jacob Reger, Alexander Provost, William Alexander, John McClure, Abraham Paul and Henry Frailey. Any student of the early history of Germantown will recognize many well-known names among those above mentioned. It is interesting to note that Charles J. Wister served as a director from 1814 to 1865 and not only helped to organize the bank, but assisted at its reorganization as a national bank. The first president was Samuel Harvey, who served from 1814 to 1848. The first cashier was John Fanning Watson, who also served from 1814 to 1848. Watson gained renown as the author of "Annals of Philadelphia." Space will not permit the naming of the various officers, but today the bank has for its president Mr. Walter Williams, a man who has risen from the

*W. J. Turner
clipping
over*

1912. Mr. John C. Knox became cashier of the bank in 1912, having previously served in various positions at the Bank of North America.

National Bank of Today

With such an honorable history, the National Bank of Germantown has developed step by step until now it is one of the strongest banks of the City of Philadelphia. It stands ready to serve the people of Germantown in any capacity as a

1712



Present Banking Building

bank. Its trust department aids as executor under will, trustee, guardian, agents for care of real estate and securities, registrar and transfer agent of stocks and bonds. Its savings fund department, under Government supervision, pays three per cent per annum. It has storage vaults for silver and other valuables and safe deposit boxes for valuable papers. It offers to depositors every facility which their balances, business and responsibility warrant. With a capital of \$200,000 and surplus of \$800,000; with resources shown at the close of business September 15, 1922, to be \$7,658,786.70, the National Bank of Germantown may be depended upon to care for any of your banking needs. The present officers are Walter Williams, president; John C. Knox, vice-president and cashier; Edward Meadowcroft, assistant cashier; directors: William N. Johnson, M. L. Finckel, Oscar W. Wood, Walter Williams, R. M. Peterson, Clifton H. Wheeler, D. F. Waters, R. S. Howard-Smith, J. Edward Durham, John C. Knox, William Warner Harper, B. F. Mechling, Jr., and Frank J. Sheble.

*Beehive
November
1922*

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Paradise Puffs



A delicious meringue shell in which ice cream, pudding, or crushed fruits can be served. They make a most unusual and pleasing dessert.

Special discount given clubs, lodges, churches and civic associations.

E. G. JACKSON, Caterer

6137 Germantown Avenue

Bell Phone, Victor 9981



"UPSALA, on the west side of Main Street, almost opposite the Chew House, is thought to be one of the finest examples of the so-called Colonial architecture in this part of the country. The house was erected in 1798 by John Johnson, ancestor of the present occupants. It was three years in building. The cannon trained on the Chew mansion, nearly opposite, were first placed where now is the front lawn of this house. For many years Upsala has been famous for its rare and beautiful trees."—C. F. Jenkins.

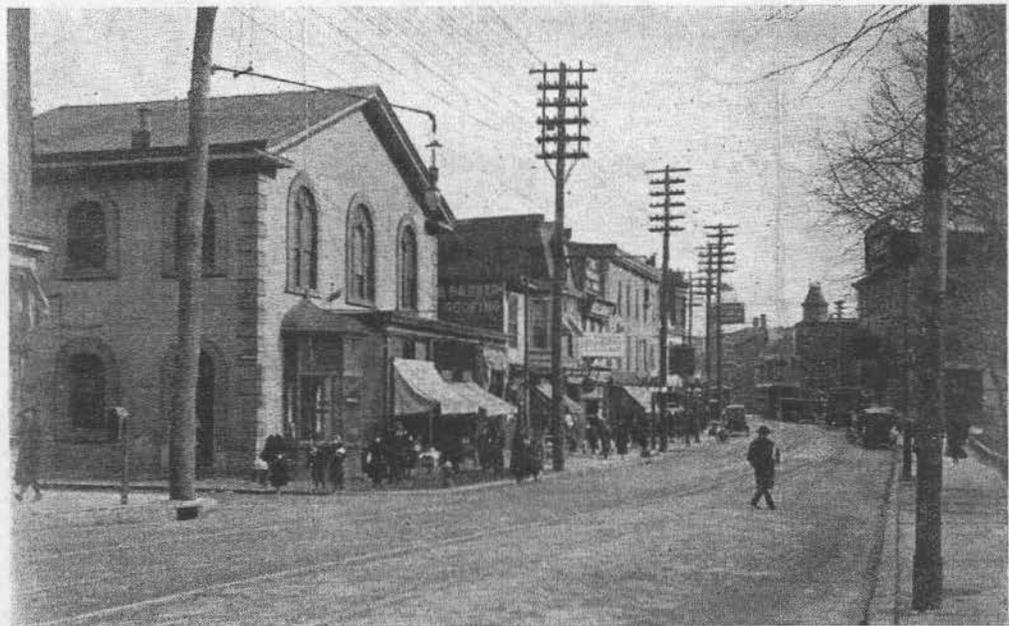
Beehive - Jan 1922

Price Street and Germantown area

P.O. & H. Station

THE BEEHIVE

March 1922



—Photo courtesy of John G. Bullock.

Beehive 12/1923

Will Retain Town Hall Relics

MAYOR MOORE on November 24th, signed a contract between the city and William A. Heine for repairing and moving the clock and bell in the old Town Hall to the new Municipal Building in Germantown. The contract price is \$3750. The Mayor, in signing the contract, announced that the cornerstone of the new building would be laid some time during this month.

The new Town Hall will cost, when completed, approximately \$450,000. The old Town Hall, which was finished in August, 1855, had no tower, clock or bell. Citizens made a request of City Councils to provide a clock, but several years elapsed before any definite efforts were made to grant the request.

Incidental to the Centennial of 1876, Henry Seybert, of Philadelphia, donated a new clock and bell for Independence Hall. They displayed a clock that Isaiah Lukens had made in 1828, and a bell that John Wiltbank had cast about the same time. Citizens of Germantown, under the leadership of Councilman James R. Gates, secured from Councils the old Independence Hall clock and bell. A new tower had to be built for the clock and bell, a fund being raised by subscription among the people of Germantown to pay the expenses.

In connection with the celebration of the centennial of the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1877, the clock and bell were formally presented to the ward. The bell is 5 feet 9 inches high, 5 feet 1 1/2 inches in diameter at its base, and was hauled from Independence Hall to Germantown by Joseph Ladley with a catamaran drawn by a string of horses, and attracted much attention on its route.



Public school attended by B. B. Lister in 1860. It is located on the north side of Oak Lane between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets. Mr. Lister died January 27, 1922, after conducting a successful real estate business in Germantown for over thirty-five years.

Beehive - March 1922

The Wissahickon Boys' Club

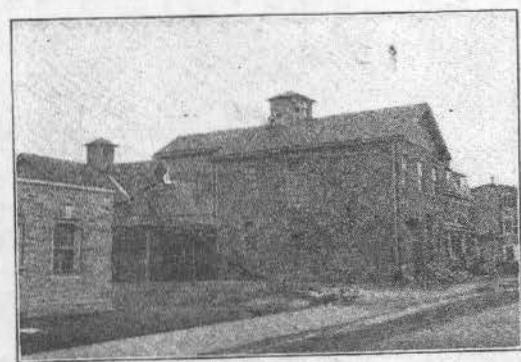
AT the annual conference of the National Federation of Boys' Clubs held at Binghamton, N. Y., in June, 1921, the Wissahickon Boys' Club took three first prizes, one second prize and three third prizes. In competition with boys' clubs of the United States, the above record is conclusive evidence of the efficiency and character of our Industrial Class work.

The Wissahickon Boys' Club was started about nineteen years ago, and until recently was the only colored boys' club in the United States—there being now one in New York and one in Chicago.

We believe that by keeping a boy off the streets and providing physical exercise and social activity under a strong and good moral influence we have gone a long way toward giving the boy the right attitude towards life and can thus make more sure a type of good citizenship and manhood for the future.

Beehive Feb. 1922

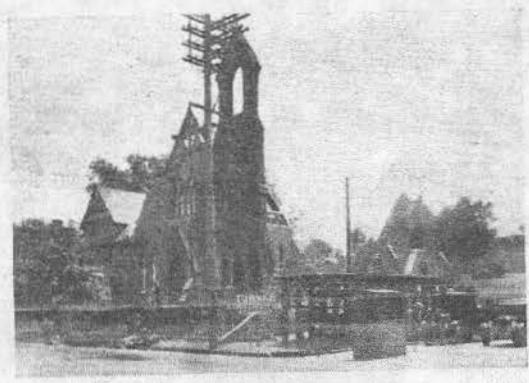
Beehive 9/1923



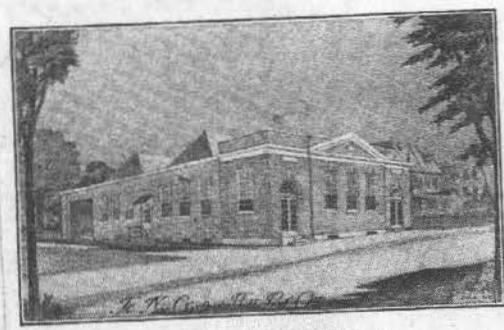
Wentz's Mill, Which Was Removed to Make Room for New Post Office.

Chestnut Hill

Beehive Sept 1927



SITE OF NEW ALLEN STORE at Chelton Avenue and Greene Street



The New Post Office.

~~Booth~~rough News
A. C. CHADWICK, JR.

HISTORIC Germantown



THE CHEW HOUSE
Scene of the Battle of Germantown

Presented by
National
Bank of Germantown
Philadelphia, Pa.
5500 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
(Cor. School Lane)
FOUNDED 1814

Places of Historic Interest on Germantown Avenue

- WAYNE JUNCTION STATION. Note sign post under bridge directing way to STENTON, about four squares from Wayne Junction. Erected 1727-34, by James Logan, secretary to William Penn.
- 4518-20, NEGLEE HOUSE.
- 4600, LOUDEN OR LOGAN MANSION.
- 4810, TOLAND HOUSE. Built 1740.
- 4817, MEHL HOUSE.
- 4825, OTTINGER HOUSE. Built 1781, by Christopher Ottinger, a soldier of Pennsylvania Line, who volunteered at the age of 17.
- 4840, WAGNER HOUSE. Built 1747. Was one of the main hospitals after Battle of Germantown.
- 4908, HENRY HOUSE. Built 1760. Was home of Alexander Henry, three times Mayor of Philadelphia and member of Congress.
- 4909, HOOD'S CEMETERY (1693). Here are many graves of early settlers and officers killed in Battle of Germantown. Oldest stone is marked 1707-8. Note tablet on front wall.
- 5100, GENERAL WAYNE HOTEL. Built 1751. A famous hostelry of Colonial days.
- 5106, COMMODORE BARRON HOUSE.
- 5109, KUNDER HOUSE. The first meetings of the Friends in Germantown were held at this house. First protest against human slavery was made here, in 1688. The paper was written by Pastorius, the Founder of Germantown.
- 5140, THE CORVY, GILBERT STUART'S HOME, where he painted the famous portrait of Washington, now in the Athenaeum of Boston; also the famous Lansdowne portrait, in the Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts.
- 5203-05, formerly one house. Birthplace of Owen Wister, the famous author.
- 5214, HACKER HOUSE. Part of British army encamped on grounds.
- 5219, JOHN BRINGHURST HOMESTEAD. Bringhurst built a "chariot" for President Washington. Was first to make the "Germantown" wagon. Also was one of the founders of Germantown Academy.
- 5242, INDIAN QUEEN TAVERN.
- 5259, SITE OF CHRISTOPHER SAUR'S HOME AND PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT. Here was printed the first German newspaper in America. 1743, printed first Bible in America. 1770, printed first book on the subject of Education in America. Cast first type made in America, about 1772-73. Saur refused to take oath of allegiance to State; his printing effects were seized and sold. He died August 26, 1784, poor.
- 5261, WISTER HOUSE. Built 1744. Birthplace of Sally Wister, author of "Sally Wister's Journal." The British General, Agnew, died in this house.
- 5367, HOME OF ANTHONY GILBERT.

- 5375-77. Occupied at one time by Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, and Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General of the United States; also the National Bank of Germantown, from 1825 to 1868.
- 5400, GERMANTOWN POSTOFFICE (on West Coulter Street), claimed by Postmaster of Philadelphia to be the model sub-postoffice of the United States.
- STATON'S ART GALLERIES. Known throughout the United States and Europe for its famous art treasures.
- 5400, FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE AND LIBRARY. Friends first met in Kunder House, 5109 Germantown Avenue. In 1693, Jacob Shoemaker conveyed to the Meeting fifty acres of land. First Meeting House was erected in 1705. In the library will be found a photograph of the first protest against slavery, and nearly all the literature printed on the history of Germantown.
- ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, northeast corner Main and Coulter Streets. Was the first Episcopal congregation organized in Germantown (1811). First building erected on this site in 1818.
- 5425, MASONIC HALL. Occupies site of Louisa Alcott's birthplace.
- 5430, HOME OF CAPTAIN ALBERT ASHMEAD.
- MARKET SQUARE. Founded 1703. Soldiers' Monument, dedicated 1883, costing \$11,815.69. At one time was the center of activity in Germantown. Here was the market house, the fire company, prison, the stocks and public sales. Note tablets on monument.
- 5442, MORRIS HOUSE. Built 1772-3. Occupied by General Howe after the Battle of Germantown. President Washington lived here in 1793, and also in 1794.
- SAVING FUND SOCIETY. Occupies site of Jacob Teller's home. William Penn once preached there.
- MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Is the third church building erected on this site. First building was built by German Reformed Church in 1733. Its first bell, cast in 1725, is still preserved in the church. President Washington attended here when living in Morris House, opposite. See tablet on building placed by Site and Relic Society.
- 5501, THE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. Occupies site of old De La Plaine House. Visitors should see the Shag Rag, the old hand engine imported from England in 1764, in the offices of the insurance company.
- 5500, THE NATIONAL BANK OF GERMANTOWN. Chartered 1813, began business in 1814; was first located next to the corner, 5504 Main Street; in 1825 it removed to 5277 Main Street, 1868 returned to present location and later bought 5504, in which building it first started. Generals Washington, Knox and Greene slept in 5504. Corner building was occupied by the Bank of the United States during a part of 1798.
- THE GERMANTOWN ACADEMY. One square west on School Lane. Founded January 1, 1760. Was used as a hospital after battle; several British soldiers are buried in yard at the rear. Seat of United States Government, 1793-94. In 1798 was occupied by Banks of North America and of Pennsylvania. Visitors admitted.

- 5516-5518-5520, COVER SITE OCCUPIED BY OLD KING OF PRUSSIA TAVERN. Thomas Jefferson lived here during November, 1793; Alexander Hamilton and General Knox dined with him here on one occasion. A portion of the original tavern still stands, but has a new front.
- 5800, VERNON PARK (WISTER MANSION). Occupied by Site and Relic Society of Germantown as a museum. Open daily from 9 to 5 o'clock. Visitors welcome, without charge.
- 5849, YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION. Stands where First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1809 as the "English Church" of Germantown. Church erected 1812, remained here until 1870, when it removed to present location on West Cheltenham Avenue.
- 5901, TOWN HALL. Old hall built 1854; was used as hospital during Civil War. New hall erected 1923; memorial tablets in the rotunda contain names of Germantown men who died in World War.
- 5909, HENRY VAN DYKE, the distinguished author, was born in this house, November 10, 1852.
- 5938, ENGLE HOUSE. Built 1758. Said to be site of first tannery in Germantown.
- MORRIS LITTEL HOUSE. Stood southeast corner Main and High Streets; read bronze tablet that marks location.
- THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN. Was organized in 1796, and its first building was on East Haines Street; now located corner Main and High Streets.
- 25 HIGH STREET. Built 1796, by Daniel Pastorius, a great-grandson of Francis Daniel Pastorius. Formerly stood on Main Street where now stands the First Methodist Church. Over doorway is carved PROCUL ESTE PROFANI, which Whittier says was carved over Pastorius' first doorway.
- ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, on High Street, two squares east of Main Street, occupies site of the old Warner burying ground. Here are buried two Doctor Warners, with headstones still standing, and now in an unmarked grave, Dr. Christopher Witt, who issued the first medical certificate in America and painted the first portrait in oil. He died in 1765, aged ninety years. It is also claimed Daniel Pastorius was buried here.
- 6019, METHODIST CHURCH PARISH HOUSE (formerly Green Tree Tavern). Built 1754. Letters "D. S. P." in date stone stand for Daniel and Sarah Pastorius.
- 6021-23, WARNER HOUSES. Two Warners, father and son, became physicians through influence of Dr. Christopher Witt.
- WYCK OR HAINES HOUSE. Built 1690. S. W. Cor. Walnut Lane and Main St. Said to be oldest house still standing in Germantown. Used as hospital during battle. Contains chair that at one time belonged to Benjamin Franklin. Noted for its famous old trees. Has never passed out of the descendants of the family.
- 6043, SHIPPEN HOUSE. Tradition claims this as the first three-story house built in Germantown. Date of

- erection unknown. Purchased by Dr. William Shippen in 1775, who at the time was "Director-General of all the Military Hospitals in the United States."
- 6101, **BLAIR HOUSE**. Built 1805 by Rev. Samuel Blair, who was instrumental in establishing the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.
- 6119, **MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE**. Log Meeting House, erected 1708, first in America; succeeded in 1770 by present building. William Rittenhouse, first papermaker of Colonies, was first pastor. Original pews continue in use, and here is original table on which first protest against slavery was signed. It is used as a communion table.
- 6502, **KEYSER HOUSE**. Built 1738, by Dirck Keyser, who arrived in Germantown 1688. Said to be first two-story house erected in Germantown.
- 6239, **WASHINGTON TAVERN**. One of the many noted taverns of Germantown's early history.
- 6306, **JOHNSON HOUSE**. Stood in thickest of the fight at the time of the battle. Still contains bullet holes, and cannon ball chipped north corner of house. Now the Woman's Club of Germantown.
- 6316, **JOHNSON HOUSE**. Numerous scars of the battle still remain on this building.
- 6309, **CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE**. Built in 1775. Used as school for many years; now occupied by Charter Oak Library. First meeting was held here which led to organization of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics.
- UPPER BURYING GROUND**, just above Concord School. Oldest known grave is that of Cornelius Tyson, 1716. Pennypacker takes this to be the oldest existing tombstone in Pennsylvania. In east corner of yard are graves of several American soldiers killed in the battle.
- 6347, **RODNEY-KEYSER HOUSE**. Upper portion of house was built by John Keyser and occupied by him and family during battle.
- 6401, **CHEW HOUSE** (called "Cliveden"). Built 1760, by Benjamin Chew, who was Attorney-General of the Province, a member of the Provincial Council and later Chief Justice. This house played an important part in the Battle of Germantown. The house and grounds are not open to the public.
- 6404, **UPSALA**. Opposite Chew House. Built 1798 by John Johnson; now occupied by his descendants. Is claimed to be one of the finest examples of the so-called Colonial architecture in this part of the country.
- SPARROW JACK HOUSE**, northwest corner Upsal and Main Street. Stood at the time of the battle. Long the home of John Bardsley, who first introduced the English sparrow on a large scale.
- BILLMEYER HOUSE**, northeast corner Upsal and Main Streets. Erected 1727, as one house. It was at this house that Washington paused after discovering Chew House was occupied by British. About 1788 was purchased by Michael Billmeyer, a celebrated German printer, who here carried on his trade. Note tablet erected by Site and Relic Society.

6611-13, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN OR DUNKARDS, mother congregation of this sect in America. First came to this country in 1719; Peter Becker organized church, 1723. Log meeting house built 1760. Front portion of present building erected 1770; rear portion 1897. Building contains tablet in memory of Christopher Saur, who was one of the Church's first Bishops.

6569, OLD HOUSE. Property of Lutheran Church, just above. Was originally "Beggartown" School, built 1740. It is the oldest school building in Germantown.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. Founded about 1737. Present building is third one that has occupied site. In graveyard are remains of Christopher Ludwig, "Baker-General to the American Army," also of Major Witherspoon, son of Rev. John Witherspoon, president of Princeton College, killed in the Battle of Germantown, as well as many others of the early settlers of the town.

6843, PAUL HOUSE. Occupied at time of battle by the Gorgas family.

6901, GORGAS HOUSE. Built by Joseph Gorgas. Here lived at one time Colin Cooper, the artist and writer.

UNRUH HOMESTEAD, Reading Railroad and Gorgas Lane. Built in 1702. The Unruhs came from Germany. Occupying site of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Main Street at Allen's Lane; was Mount Airy, summer home of Chief Justice William Allen. In 1826 was occupied by "The American Classical and Military Institute"; Generals Beauregard and Meade, and the latter's brother, received their education here. Building was demolished about 1845.

7400, GOWEN HOUSE. Built 1792, by Joseph Miller.

7500, PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF.

Historic Places East of Germantown Avenue STARTING AT EAST LOGAN STREET

WAKEFIELD MILLS, established by William Logan Fisher, said to be the first knitting mills in the United States. 400 East Logan Street. To the left, beyond the mills is "WAKEFIELD," built about 1795.

DE BENNEVILLE GRAVEYARD. Northeast corner York Road and Main Street, Branchtown. General Agnew and Colonel Bird monument is located in this cemetery.

BRANCHTOWN HOTEL, directly opposite, was built in 1790, by Joseph Spencer.

CHARLES WHARTON'S HOUSE, left side of pike, beyond Branchtown, at bottom of hill. Just inside of gateway is rough stone marking graves of four American soldiers surprised and shot by British as they met around camp fire, 1777.

TOWNSENDS', OR ROBERTS' MILL. First mill for grinding grain in Philadelphia County. Erected 1683. Located near Church Lane and Twenty-first Street, on branch of Wingohocking Creek.

SPENCER HOUSE, northeast corner Church Lane and Dunton Street. Birthplace and home of Thomas Godfrey, inventor of the quadrant,

LANGSTRETH PORPERTY, northeast corner Haines Street and Limekiln Pike. Now occupied by the Philadelphia National Cemetery.

CHRISTOPHER LUDWIG HOUSE, south side of Haines Street, east of Chew. Recently remodeled and moved back from street. In 1777 Ludwig was appointed Baker-General to the American Army.

AWBURY. Bounded by Chew Street, Haines, Boyer and Washington Lane. Contains the houses of the Cope and Haines families.

Historic Places West of Germantown Avenue

FERN HILL PARK. Formerly the estate of Louis Clapier, then Henry P. McKean, later presented to the City of Philadelphia as a public park. This plateau and bluff, which overlooks the city, was one of the tracts of land intended for the location of the Capitol. Watson says: "In the year of 1789, a Resolution passed the House of Representatives, then in session in New York, that the permanent seat of government ought to be on the banks of the Susquehanna, in Pennsylvania; but it was amended in the Senate by fixing upon Germantown as its site. Upon being returned to the House, the amendment was approved and sent back again to the Senate, for a slight amendment, providing that Pennsylvania laws should continue in force, in such Federal district, until Congress should legislate otherwise. Thereupon, the subject was postponed until the next session; and thus, our old Germantown, after being fixed upon by both Houses, was wholly laid aside!"

GERMANTOWN CRICKET CLUB, McKean Avenue and Manheim Street. FRALEY HOUSE and PRICE HOMESTEAD are located on these grounds.

CARLTON, Queen Lane west of Wissahickon Avenue. Washington's headquarters, August and September, 1777, before and after the Battle of Brandywine. Note tablet on wall.

QUEEN LANE AND FOX STREET. Monument; encampment of Continental Army, 1777.

SCHOOL LANE WEST OF WISSAHICKON AVENUE. William Penn Charter School; founded 1689.

BIRTHPLACE OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE. Opposite Rittenhouse Street and Lincoln Drive. House erected 1707. David Rittenhouse born April 8, 1732. The first paper mill in America was located near this house; erected by William Rittenhouse, 1690.

VALLEY GREEN. Springfield Avenue and the Wissahickon.

INDIAN ROCK. Bridle path above Valley Green. THE "MONASTERY." Kitchen's Lane and the Wissahickon; built 1756.

PENN MONUMENT. "Toleration." On the bridge path, a short distance below the "Monastery."

LIVEZEY HOUSE. Allen's Lane and Wissahickon Creek.

DEVIL'S POOL. Above Livezey House, where Creshcim Creek flows into the Wissahickon.

Important Dates in Germantown's History

1683—Aug. 16—Francis Daniel Pastorius reaches Phila.

1683—Oct. 6—Thirteen emigrants from Crefeld, Germany, with their families reached Philadelphia.

1683—Oct. 12—A warrant was issued to Pastorius for land on behalf of the Germantown Purchase.

1683—Oct. 24—Thomas Fairman surveyed the land.

1683—Oct. 25—Meeting in cave of Pastorius, where lots were drawn for the land and settlement begun.

1683—First flour mill (Robert's or Towasend's) erected on East Church Lane, Germantown.

1688—Friends issue first public protest in America against human slavery.

1690—First paper mill in America built in Germantown.

1691—May 31—Germantown incorporated as a Borough.

1698—First school book published in America by Pastorius.

1705—First portrait in oil painted in America by Christopher Witt

1707—Town loses its charter, no longer incorporated.

1708—First Mennonite Church in America erected in Germantown.

1716—First forge in Pennsylvania built in Germantown.

1719—Feb. 17—Francis Daniel Pastorius died.

1719—First body of Dunkards in America arrived in Germantown.

1723—Dec. 25—Dunkard Church organized in Germantown, first one in America.

1732—Apr. 8—David Rittenhouse born.

1738—First medical diploma issued in America by Christopher Witt.

1739—First almanac printed in a foreign language issued in America.

1743—First Bible in America, in a European language, printed in Germantown by Christopher Sauer.

1760—Germantown Academy founded.

1761—"Cliveden," the Chew House, built.

1764—Sauer publishes first religious magazine in America.

1764—Invasion of Paxtang Boys.

1769—Dr. Christopher Witt died.

1770—First American book on Pedagogy published in Germantown.

1772-1773—First type cast in America made in Germantown.

1777—Aug. 1-8—Washington's Army encamped near Germantown.

1777—Sept. 12-14—Washington's Army returns to camp near Germantown.

1777—Sept. 25—British Army occupies Germantown.

1777—Oct. 4—Battle of Germantown.

1777—Oct. 19—British Army leaves Germantown, moving into Philadelphia.

1780—First light market wagon in America, built by Bringham.

1793—Yellow fever drives President Washington from Philadelphia to Germantown.

1794—President Washington spends six weeks of summer in Germantown.

1796-1797—Gilbert Stuart paints portraits of Washington in Germantown.

1801—Feb. 12—Germantown Turnpike incorporated.

1825—July 20—Lafayette visits Germantown.

1832—July 6—Steam railroad to Germantown opened.

1854—Germantown ceased to be an independent borough and was created the 22nd Ward of Philadelphia.

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