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JOSEPH FORNANCE
1841-1923

Historical Sketches

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS PREPARED

FOR THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

Period 1921-1925

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

VOLUME VII

1921-1925

JOHN HARTENSTINE

NORRISTOWN, PA.

1935

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Introductory

"Peace! and no longer from its brazen portals
The blast of War's great organ shakes the skies!
But beautiful as songs of the immortals,
The holy melodies of love arise."

(Longfellow: The Arsenal at Springfield.)

In the introduction to Volume VI of these Historical Sketches, much was necessarily said about the World War, which began and ended (so far as concerns the United States) during the period to which that volume applies.

The World War was fought, ostensibly, "to end war." But, unfortunately, although the machinery designed to further that purpose has been assembled, the hoped-for result has not, at this writing, been achieved.

Happily, however, our own country is not now among either those torn by internal conflict, or those convulsed by foreign war. The "status quo ante bellum" has been, as nearly as possible, restored, and with the return to civil occupation of a countless army of citizens, the old interests—even cultural interests—may, with fair hope, be resumed.

The responsibility placed upon this Society, of fulfilling the purpose for which it was formed, is now greater than before. Not only has another war—the most devastating war known to history—added immeasurably to the catalog of events to be chronicled; but also, it is only too likely that its bulk has altogether eclipsed many all-but-forgotten facts of earlier history. For although the writing and teaching of history have changed much in the past half-century, it must be admitted that, in the popular mind, War still holds center-stage, ready to force into the background many less spectacular, though more important, events.

The collection and preservation of local historical data have therefore taken on, for every one of us, a new meaning, which we must not be slow in grasping. By an historical

perspective too simple to need explaining, the figures of the Present threaten to overshadow those of the Past, and will do so, unless a light more searching than any yet brought to bear, is turned upon the vanishing background. There should be an active group in every township of the county, having for its purpose, not only the collecting of original family papers and local lore, but also the systematic making of abstracts of public documents, which, through incessant use and abuse, and storage in damp and dusty places, are continually facing destruction. It is often said of a place, "The history of this region is lost in the mist of ages," when, as a matter of fact, it is only the broom of the investigator that is wanting, to make the past live again. Let us collect what nobody seems interested in, for that is the most likely to be lost.

Like charity, the recording of events should begin at home. So it is well to say here, that the passage of another five-year period has brought significant changes in the leadership of our Society. Dr. Thomas R. Beeber, who so fittingly headed the list of officers in our last volume of Historical Sketches, was, in 1921, made President Emeritus of the Society. His successor as President, elected in 1921, was Mr. Samuel Gordon Smyth, senior vice-president of the Society, editor of its most recent volume of Historical Sketches, and a noted contributor to the Sketches themselves. Mr. Smyth served the office of President until 1923, when, on his retirement, Irvin P. Knipe, Esq., a noted member of the Montgomery County Bar, was elected to fill the vacancy, which he has since done to the full satisfaction of the Society.

The Society mourns the loss, during this period, of two valuable and faithful officers—Joseph Fornance, Esq., and J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq. Mr. Fornance died in 1923, having been retired for some years from the office of President of the Society, which he had filled for twenty-one years. Mr. Jenkins died in 1921, while holding the office of Vice-President. Memoirs of both will be found elsewhere in this volume.

The activities of the Society have continued to draw full attendance, not only to its regular meetings, but also to

those special ones held, from time to time, in the evening. Of the papers read at these meetings, the greater number are presented in this volume; but it is to be regretted that several, because they were delivered extempore, and were never reduced to writing by their authors, have had to be omitted.

The annual outing of the Society has been, as ever, a popular event. In 1921, a pilgrimage was made to old Abington Friends' Meeting, Abington Presbyterian Church, and the Bryn Athyn Cathedral. That of 1922 took the Society and its friends into the Upper Perkiomen Valley, where the churches of Old and New Goshenhoppen were visited, and a view afforded of the collections of the Schwenkfelder Historical Museum and Library, at Pennsylvania. The excursion of 1923 was to the townships of Springfield and Whitmarsh, with stops at the historic Spring Mill, the Stotesbury mansion, Zion Lutheran Church and Hope Lodge. In 1924, the outing included Horsham, with visits to Graeme Park and the Friends' Meeting-house; and Hatboro; while that of 1925 covered a number of historic points in the Oley Valley.

It is significant of the change in transportation methods, that while the Outing program of 1921 states, "The trip will be made *by automobile 'buses,'*" that of 1925 says, "The Society would like to *avoid having an autobus* for this trip"; indicating that nearly all will come, either as owners or guests, in private cars.

The Society continues its flourishing condition, and the number of new members proposed at each meeting shows the sustained interest of the history-lovers of the county. Visitors from twenty other states registered at Historical Hall, 1921-25, inclusive, the most populous states sending the greatest number of visitors; there were also a few from abroad. The accessions to the Society's collections numbered more than eight hundred individual donations, while the number of books, documents and articles actually comprised in this list naturally reached a far higher figure.

In Memoriam

The Society records, with sincere sense of loss, the death of the following members:

ADELA BARNESLEY
DR. JOSEPH E. BLANCK
HENRY A. BOORSE
MRS. MARY ANN BUCKMAN
JAMES HARRISON CLARK
DR. P. Y. EISENBERG
DAVID H. ELLIS
REV. L. K. EVANS
MONTGOMERY EVANS
JOSEPH FITZWATER
JOHN H. GEHRET
B. F. GOUGHLER
MARY HARRY
SAMUEL S. HARTRANFT
E. WHEELER JENKINS
MRS. HARRY J. KRATZ
DR. E. A. KRUSEN
J. HORACE LANDIS
JAMES M. LANDIS
N. H. LARZELERE
OLIVER F. LENHARDT

MRS. CHARLES MAJOR
JANE MILLER
WILLIAM E. MONTAGUE
M. ANNA MOORE
REV. ROBERT H. NASSAU
JOHN E. OBERHOLTZER
ELWOOD ROBERTS
SAMUEL ROBERTS
REMANDUS SCHEETZ
MRS. JOHN F. SHEPPARD
WILLIAM SUMMERS
ELLEN L. THOMAS
NEVILLE B. TYSON
DR. J. K. WEAVER
REV. C. F. WILLIAMS
HENRY S. WILLIAMS
I. C. WILLIAMS
B. F. WONSETLER
MRS. JAMES W. WOOD
MRS. AMANDA YEAKLE

In Memoriam: Joseph Fornance

Joseph Fornance was president of the Historical Society of Montgomery County for twenty-one years — a term of much greater length than any of his predecessors or successors in that office served. Moreover, his presidency was conspicuous for progress and prosperity in the Society. His fine tact and culture and his wide knowledge of the county's history made him an admirable leader for the Society. When he became president, in 1896, the Society had about sixty members. Within five years the list had grown to three hundred. The annual supper on Washington's Birthday was a delightful social feature of that time, and also added materially to the Society's income. The Society marked numerous historic sites; the custom of having an annual outing came into vogue, and the publication of papers read before the Society was begun, Mr. Fornance himself serving as chairman of the publication committee. The most outstanding achievement in those years, however, was the acquisition of a building for the Society's use, the former Norristown Borough Hall having been purchased a few months after Mr. Fornance assumed the presidency.

Mr. Fornance possessed the prestige of lineage in a distinguished family and of honorable service at the bar, as well as enthusiasm for historical inquiry. His father, also named Joseph Fornance, had been prominent at the bar, and, after a term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, was elected to the National House of Representatives in 1838, and re-elected two years later. His mother was Anne Butcher McKnight, of Alexandria, Virginia, a descendant of the Piercy and McKnight families of Virginia, and of the Roberts family of Lower Merion township, Montgomery county. The son, Joseph Fornance, was born in Washington, D. C., April 24, 1841. He was educated in Norristown in the private schools of Dr. John W. Loch and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Aaron, and, after teaching school for a

time, he studied law with Gilbert R. Fox, in Norristown, and in the department of law at the University of Pennsylvania, being admitted to the Montgomery county bar in 1866.

In 1877 Mr. Fornance went to St. Louis, Mo., and opened a law office. But he returned to Norristown two years later, and thereafter was actively engaged at his profession in Norristown until within a few years before his death. His was not a spectacular career. He was never combative, but he achieved his ends through mild, courteous persistence. While, like his father, he was a Democrat in politics, he never held either elective or appointive office, but he took an active part in some political campaigns, particularly when General Winfield Scott Hancock was the Democratic nominee for the Presidency in 1880, for Mr. Fornance maintained cordial friendship with General Hancock by reason of the fact that his father, while a member of Congress, had appointed Hancock a cadet at West Point Military Academy.

At the organization of the Montgomery County Bar Association, in 1885, Mr. Fornance was appointed a member of its important committee of censors, and he remained a member until 1914, when he was elected vice-president of the association. In 1915, being the senior member of the association, he became president. The association prepared to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. Fornance's admission to the bar, in 1916, but, because of wartime conditions, at his own request the commemoration was postponed until after the war. Accordingly, on May 17, 1919, the Bar Association tendered a dinner at the Bellevue-Stratford, Philadelphia, both to Mr. Fornance and to Joseph V. Gotwalts, who in the meantime had likewise attained his fiftieth anniversary.

Following the organization of the Montgomery County Centennial Association for the observance of the county's centennial, in September, 1884, Mr. Fornance was elected president, when Judge B. Markley Boyer, the first president, resigned, and his capable leadership counted materially in making the four-day observance the great success that it was.

Mr. Fornance became a member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County in its early years, and preceding his election to the presidency, in 1896, he was a vice-president, while former Judge Hiram C. Hoover was president. In 1917 Mr. Fornance insisted upon relinquishing the presidency.

Other offices that Mr. Fornance held were those of trust officer of the Montgomery Trust Company, of Norristown, 1901 to 1903; member of the board of directors of the Montgomery Trust Company, and member of the board of managers of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution. He also was a member of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati, the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, Charity Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, of Norristown, and Hancock Fire Company, of Norristown.

Mr. Fornance was married on February 22, 1881, to Ellen Knox, daughter of Colonel Thomas Pope Knox and Sarah Ann Leedom Knox. They were the parents of Joseph Knox Fornance, a member of the Montgomery County bar; Eleanor Fornance, deceased, and Lois Fornance Wallace, deceased. The family lived in the historic Porter-Knox homestead, known as Selma, on West Main street, Norristown. There Mr. Fornance died on December 16, 1923.

In Memoriam: J. P. Hale Jenkins

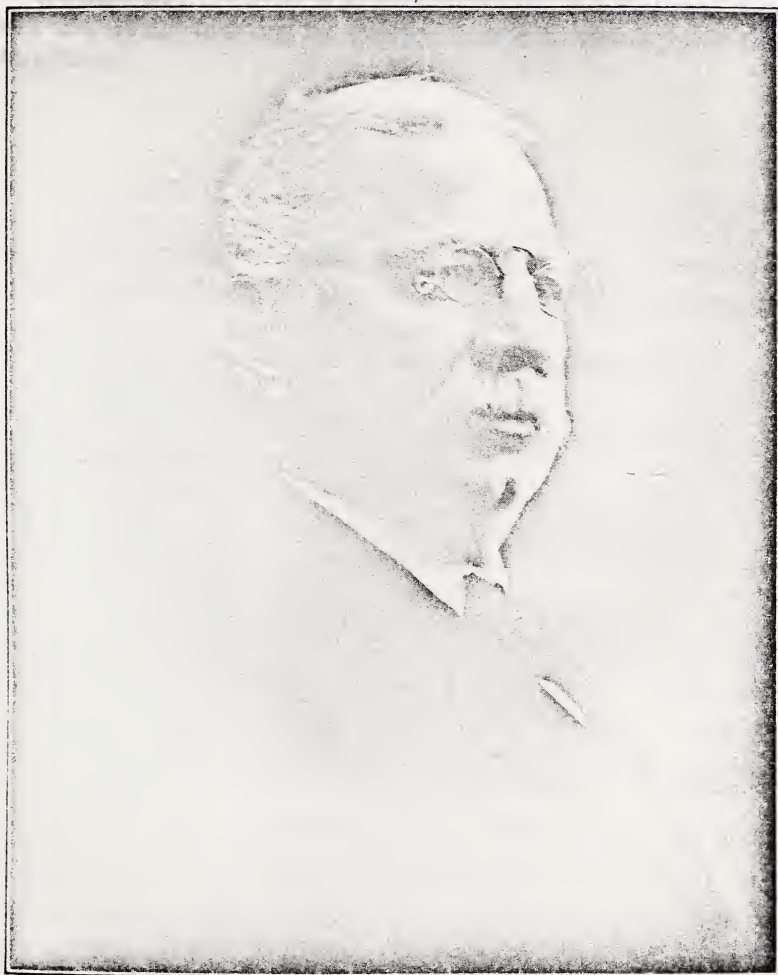
J. P. Hale Jenkins, son of Charles Todd and Sarah (Lukens) Jenkins, was born in Hatfield township, Montgomery county, January 13, 1851. He attended the public schools and Lexington Seminary, and later took a course at Crittenden's Business College, Philadelphia. He then began reading law with George N. Corson, Esq., of Norristown.

On April 30, 1874, he was admitted to the Montgomery County Bar, of which he remained an active member for forty-seven years. During this period of his law practice, he served the Borough of Norristown for several years as its solicitor, and also acted as solicitor of its poor board, and of its school board, of which he was a member. Later, he became Special Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania for Montgomery County.

Mr. Jenkins filled, for long periods of years, the offices of director of the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company, of the Norristown Trust Company, of the Philadelphia Casualty Trust Company, and of the Stony Creek Railroad Company. He was a member, for many years, of the Valley Forge Park Commission.

He was actively interested, as organizer and officer, in the work of volunteer fire departments, both borough and state. He was a member of numerous lodges.

In 1918, Mr. Jenkins was elected a vice-president of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, which office he held at the time of his death. During the brief period of his service, he was frequently called upon, during the illness of the president, Dr. Beeber, to preside over meetings of the Society, and he ably attended to this and to other duties of the presidential office, as well. He was the author of two papers, "Pennsylvania's Relationship to Washington," and "The Congressional Election of 1794," both of which were read before the Society, and have since been published in Volume VI of these Historical Sketches.



J. P. HALE JENKINS
1851-1921

He was also the author of a book, "Valley Forge."

Mr. Jenkins married, on December 30, 1875, Miss Ella C. Slight.

He died at his home, 510 Swede Street, Norristown, January 19, 1921, leaving to survive him his widow, and two daughters.

A Review of the History of the Historical Society of Montgomery County

By H. W. KRATZ

In the effort to gather inspiration from the past history of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, we may not find as much as desired to justify enthusiasm, or as much historical matter enrolled upon its tablet, or as many books stored in its archives as might have been collected under a more active and aggressive effort. Greater interest might have been aroused under more pronounced effort on the part of the membership. A larger yield of historic fruitage might have been plucked if the field of history had been traversed, and more laborers had appeared on the scene to help gather material. But notwithstanding that more satisfactory results might have been achieved, it is nevertheless encouraging to realize that our Society has been fully established and maintained with as much success as generally crowns the labors of such organizations. The burdens created by the establishment of such societies are universally imposed upon and borne by the few, while the many who should be interested in promoting and developing its purposes, stand back in wonderful expectancy of great things to occur: and because something remarkable fails to happen, their interest and help is withheld, and their sense of duty remains unquickened. It is marvelous, and at the same time humiliating, to realize the fact that so few people are disposed to aid in the development of an organization having in view the production of information and facts which would educate its members as well as the community in local as well as general history. Such a cause so susceptible of expansive thought and extended research should not be permitted to exist as a mere sentiment, but should be developed into a telling reality. It should form a

nucleus around which many should not only be glad, but anxious, to gather by the constraining force of duty, and the conviction of moral obligation under which we are bound to each other, in promoting the welfare of the community in which we live. There is much information of a local character to be found in every community that may be utilized by historical societies. It is too often thought, however, that such matter is too antiquated or insignificant for men of this progressive age to notice or investigate—that matters of greater significance, and comprehending loftier themes, are of paramount importance and concern, and that the past with its memories and incidents should pass into oblivion, and rest forever in the shades of forgetfulness. And this mistaken but yet very prevalent tendency would be fully consummated were it not for historical societies. A spirit of indifference, approximating well nigh to opposition, was displayed when the wisdom and propriety of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Montgomery County was first conceived by this Society. This step, which resulted in a most important and laudable achievement, was first taken on the 25th day of May, 1882. The project of a suitable celebration of the centennial of the county's organization, to be observed in 1884, was then discussed, and a committee of conference appointed, which resulted in a joint organization of the county officials and membership of this Society. It was then determined that a general committee to consist of one person from each election district in the county, to take charge of the work, should be appointed. After this committee was constituted, co-operative effort was started. To this call it was hoped and expected many would respond. It was thought that men of different professions and callings in life would be aroused to enlist in this cause, and from patriotic motives would join the movement. Pride and interest in local enterprise should have been such an incentive to earnest co-operation that many of the foremost citizens of Norristown should have promptly met the occasion with warm hearts and willing hands in such a praiseworthy undertaking. Notwithstanding that the cause was meritorious and patriotic, there were

comparatively few who were in real sympathy with the enterprise. The apparent indifference, however, did not dishearten those already in line; but, inflated with the true spirit, they prosecuted their labors with zeal, feeling assured that they would come out victorious. Interest in the movement increased, and business accumulated to such a degree that monthly meetings were soon held.

At a meeting held November 22, 1883, the general nature of the celebration was discussed, and the Memorial Committee instructed to have prepared and erected a granite monolith to the memory of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, to be placed in front of the Court House, marking a continuation of the surveyor's meridian line. At the meeting held December 27, 1883, it was believed that the work had progressed sufficiently well to warrant the determination to hold the proposed celebration, and continue the same four days, during which period an antiquarian exposition should be opened for the display of antique relics or articles of any kind connected with the early history of Montgomery County; ingenious devices or articles of more modern construction; specimens of art illustrative of local subjects, or executed by local artists; collections of minerals, fossils, botanical and geological specimens, and Indian relics, etc.

The arrangements being completed, the Celebration opened on Tuesday, September 9, 1884. With the opening exercises was connected the dedication of the Rittenhouse Memorial Stone. A bright and clear day dawned upon the imposing scene. A large concourse of people had assembled to witness the ceremonies of the day. At the appointed time, Joseph Fornance, Esq., President of the Centennial Association, stepped forward upon the Court House porch, and introduced Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, President of Ursinus College, who, after making some very appropriate remarks, led the large audience in a most fervent and eloquent prayer. After the address of welcome by the Solicitor of Town Council, J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq., and the dedication of the Rittenhouse Memorial Stone, Colonel Bean replied to the delivery of the report of the Memorial Committee as

follows: "In the name and in behalf of the Historical Society of Montgomery County it affords me great pleasure to receive and accept the report of the Memorial Committee. It shall become part of the records of the Society referred to and shall ever be cherished as an interesting memorial of the event which it reports." After listening to an eloquent and patriotic address by Judge Boyer, the exercises closed with the benediction by the Rev. Isaac Gibson.

The memorial exercises of the second day, held in Music Hall, sweetened by the fragrance of flowers and plants, amid elaborate decorations within and without, proved interesting and impressive. The first musical rendition was given by the Philharmonic Orchestra of Norristown, which was followed by the singing of that soul-inspiring hymn, "Before Jehovah's Awful Throne," to that fitting tune, "Migdol," by the Centennial Chorus and Orchestra. As a contributor to the music on that occasion and being a participant, and in position to see and feel the effect, I can say that the singing of the hymn was a most complete success, in its rendition and effect. The enraptured audience so entirely appreciated the performance that their silence and attention were a wonderful and interesting exhibition of suppressed emotion and delight. Rev. Henry S. Rodenbough, the oldest pastor in continuous service in Montgomery County, then offered a prayer full of pathos, earnestness and patriotism. At the conclusion of the prayer, Joseph Fornance said that the idea of celebrating the Montgomery County Centennial started in the Historical Society of Montgomery County. In working up the cause, at first we met with little encouragement; but as the anniversary day approached interest was aroused and the people of the county responded nobly. They needed but little stirring up to show that they were full of patriotism. After the singing of Whittier's Centennial Hymn, the historical oration was delivered by William J. Buck, author of the first history of Montgomery County, published in 1859. The oration was an exhaustive history of the county, the character and habits of the early settlers, and the people now, and of the improvements that have taken place during the past hundred years. Among the

many declarations that were interesting and contained much that was new, the following patriotic sentiment deserves quotation: "Montgomery County has furnished gallant officers and men, not only in the Revolution, but in the War of 1812, and with Mexico. In the late Rebellion it furnished its share again, and a monument in the neighboring square contains the names of 547 men that gave their lives in that terrible struggle, that the union of our forefathers might still be preserved and perpetuated." His concluding remarks referred to our honored county. He emphasized the peaceful side of its history by saying that in the long course of the centuries not an instance can be found that either white man or Indian had here shed each other's blood. Mobs have never here prevailed, the most violent reformers have had their way, and no churches or other buildings have been destroyed under such temporary excitement. Though peopled by the English, Welsh, Germans, Swedes and Irish, speaking various languages, and holding different religious and political views, they resolved to live here peaceably with each other, while they diligently labored to improve their possessions, till they have become as we now behold and enjoy them at this day. The Festival Hymn was then rendered by the chorus, after which the Hon. George N. Corson read a most pleasing original poem. The most pertinent allusions in said poem are the following:

"Our fathers surely were wiser men
Than we are, for they were nearer Penn,
And not afraid to make a nation,
Found a state, or excite creation
With a creed engrossed upon a scroll,
That gave liberty to man and soul:
To carve a county from an old one,
Build a borough, aye, and a bold one,
From a village straggling up and down,
Make a county seat of Norristown.

And bless the parents that gave us birth
On this favored spot of mother earth,
Where schools are free, and the air serene;
Where summer's harvest and winter's sheen

Fill the garner and bless the yeoman
 Along the Schuylkill, the Perkiomen,
 And thru' all the bounds of the bounty
 Bestowed by Montgomery County."

Then followed the singing of that famous "Hallelujah Chorus," by the choir, accompanied by the orchestra.

Doctor Weiser followed with an eloquent and well-prepared oration. Among the prominent lofty and cheery thoughts brought out by the orator, he said: "This is an Eastertide. Some unseen power has touched the dry bones of its hills and dales, breathed upon them and wrought the miracle of resurrection. What an aroma collects around and diffuses from the shades and handwork of our ancestors! Norristown is filled with shrines, as Athens once stood filled with altars and gods. Our proud shire is of age; has 100,000 inhabitants; 500,000 acres and 500 square miles of territory. Montgomery's Centennial jubilee needs no words of justification, no defense; not even an apology. It does not confront us as an historical novice, an event solitary and peculiar. It is but another building-stone that we bring for the walls of the temple of immortality, which is rising heavenward, since the creation of man, 'in the image of God.' "

With the oration and benediction, the very interesting events of the second day closed.

Under Colonel John W. Schall, Chairman of the Committee on Parade, the third day was made the greatest day of the celebration. The bright, clear weather, the dustless streets, the elaborate and costly decorations, the representation of the Indian children, the Grand Army of the Republic, the National Guard of Pennsylvania, the benevolent and fraternal societies, firemen, manufacturing, trades, etc., all conspired to render the affair a complete success. A notable feature of the day was the address made to the delegation of Indian children by our lamented president, Colonel Theodore W. Bean. In behalf of the people of Montgomery County, he cordially welcomed them and the Christian philanthropist who had them in charge, to the memorial festivities of the celebration. In the address they were recognized

as the descendants of a race who once were the proud possessors of the ground we now occupy, honorably and peaceably acquired of them by William Penn, the founder of our great Commonwealth. He proclaimed that 200 years more had elapsed since Christian civilization confronted their forefathers in the Schuylkill valley. That their hunting-ground had been turned into areas of agricultural wealth and commercial splendor, and the rude implements of their simple mode of living were on exhibition as antique curiosities. Like unto a father he admonished them to carry with them to their western homes the potent agencies of a liberal Christian civilization, and expressed the hope that they would all become active factors for the redemption of their tribes and race; that they would become good husbandmen, industrious artisans, devoted teachers and peaceful men and women.

Viewing the Antiquarian Exposition occupied the fourth day. So great was the interest and so universal the pleasure and approval by the people of this display, that a request was made that it be kept open from one to three days longer. This, under all the circumstances, had to be denied.

The favorable condition of the finances proves the wisdom of the plan adopted to raise money, and attests the care with which the affair was managed. J. A. Strassburger, Esq., Treasurer, in his statement, showed that \$6,216.93 had been received, and that \$5,013.44 had been disbursed, leaving a balance of \$1,203.49 on hand, which was paid to the Historical Society of Montgomery County in trust, to be invested in good real estate security, the principal sum to remain in trust, and the interest only to be used for the purposes of the Society.

Now, while the work of this memorable and most creditable event devolved upon the Centennial Association, a name adopted for euphony and practicability, it was nevertheless the direct outgrowth of the active measures adopted by the Historical Society. In the prosecution of the work, all labored earnestly and faithfully in the cause, until their efforts culminated in a success which was grand and complete. This Society, therefore, by its quiet early career, as

by its valuable achievements during the Centennial celebration, established itself upon a firm and enduring foundation. It demonstrated the fact that there is much more information and instruction derived from such a local enterprise. It taught the lesson that is so often ignored, that knowledge of our native county, its people and their possessions, is of much value and a source of pleasing satisfaction. The antiquarian exposition was educational in effect. It revealed what otherwise would have remained concealed and unknown to the people forever. The Indian relics and antiquities of the first settlers and early purchasers, relics and records of the Colonial period, relics of the Revolutionary War, relics of the War of 1812, relics of the Mexican War, relics of the War for the Union, implements of early husbandry and the many other curious and interesting articles exhibited, standing in contrast with articles of modern design and make, afforded useful and important information. In that exhibition, every era of our history contributed objects that were select and typical. It stimulated a taste for the artistic and the beautiful; a desire for the preservation of the antique articles and for the preservation of historical records, evidence of which can be seen on every hand throughout Montgomery County to this day. The published proceedings of the Centennial Celebration of Montgomery County, if placed in the schools of our county, to be used by teachers for lecturing purposes, would teach the children many lessons of local history, a branch of education which is much neglected. As a rule, very little knowledge of local character is imparted and therefore information of county, and even of state, nature is very limited.

To summarize in detail the items which make up the historical record of this Society, in order to demonstrate its achievements and labors, would be an unnecessary occupation of your time. I am constrained to say, however, that the success which attended its labors in the consummation of that memorable event, the Centennial Celebration of Montgomery County, has rendered its name and history illustrious. This Society can also point with proud satisfaction to what many of its members contributed in money and effort

toward enabling the Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge to purchase the old historic mansion in which Washington established his headquarters while the Continental Army was cantoned on the banks of the Schuylkill river, in the winter of 1777-78, for the purpose of improving and preserving the mansion and grounds around it as a cherished memorial of the sufferings and trials of our forefathers in achieving independence and founding the Republic.

Let us hope and believe that today's exercises and the retrospect of our achievements may furnish sufficient inspiration to prompt us to go forward in the effort of continuous and fuller development.

Let us cherish these happy reminiscences of our past history, realize them, their relations to civil justice, and endeavor to gather such inspiration from our education and historical achievement as will stimulate our zeal and interest in the cause and, if possible, increase our labors in order that we may reach a still nobler and higher development.

On the Trail of Washington*

By FRED PERRY POWERS

The "shot heard 'round the world" was fired by "th' embattled farmers" on the morning of April 19, 1775. On that same morning, "near 10 of the clock," as the message is dated, the Committee of Safety of Watertown started an express rider for New York and Philadelphia with the news. Two hours later the messenger rode into Worcester, thirty miles distant, at full speed, shouting, "To arms! To arms! The war has begun!" "His horse, covered with blood and foam, fell exhausted at the church. Another was instantly produced and the tidings went on."

There were not relays of horses for maintaining such speed, and the message left New York at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, having been overtaken in Fairfield, Connecticut, by news written on Thursday. Elias Boudinot receipted for the message in Elizabethtown, Sunday evening. Monday, about 10, the messenger reached Trenton, and at 5 P.M., as we learn from the journal of Christopher Marshall, member of the Committee of Safety, the rider dismounted at the City Tavern, Second street, near Walnut, in Philadelphia.

Two days later, Friday, April 21st, a fuller account of what had happened near Boston was started from Wallingford, fourteen miles from New Haven, to go to the southernmost of the colonies, and in "The American Archives" is preserved the itinerary, day and night, of this message, from 2 P.M. Tuesday, April 25th, till at half past six Wednesday evening, May 10th, the Committee of Safety of Georgetown, S. C., started the message on its last stage of sixty-odd miles to Charleston.

The message received in New York at 2 P.M. Tuesday, was received in Elizabethtown at 7 o'clock, at New Bruns-

*Read before the Society, January 20, 1921.

wick at midnight, at Princeton at 3.30 A.M., at Trenton on Wednesday, at half past six, and forwarded at seven; at Philadelphia at noon, and forwarded at once; at Chester at four; at New Castle at nine; and at midnight of Wednesday it was receipted for at Christeen Bridge by Thomas Couch, who endorsed on it the next address, at the Head of Elk, with the mandate that it was "night and day to be forwarded." On Friday, April 28th, at 8 P.M., it reached Alexandria, and it is not likely that the news was long in reaching Mount Vernon. Among the further endorsements on the papers were these: at Wilmington, "For God's sake, send the man on without the least delay, and write to Mr. Marion to forward it by night and by day." At Brunswick, "Pray don't neglect a moment in forwarding." At the next station, "Pray order the express you send to ride night and day."

"Speed, Malise, speed! Such cause for haste
Thine active sinews never braced.

* * * * *

Herald of battle, fate and fear,
Stretch onward in thy fleet career.

* * * * *

For danger, death and warrior deed
Are in thy course! Speed, Malise, speed!"

Before the message reached Charleston, even before it reached Georgetown, the Second Continental Congress met on May 10th, and later in the month John Adams wrote to his wife, "Colonel Washington appears in Congress in his uniform."

New England had started the fire, and turned to the rest of the colonies to help put it out. To facilitate the necessary assistance, the command of the army at Boston was offered to a Virginian who had more military reputation than any other man identified with the Colonial cause, and who had won the complete confidence of his associates in Congress. He was chairman of all committees on military subjects. In the letter already quoted, from Adams, he wrote: "His

great experience in military matters is of much service to us." Patrick Henry said that Rutledge was the most eloquent man in the Congress, but Washington stood far above all the others in his solid information and weight of judgment.

In a letter to the Rev. Jonathan Boucher, the rector of the parish which included Mount Vernon, dated May 21, 1772, Washington thus playfully speaks of having his portrait painted: "Inclination having yielded to opportunity, I am now, contrary to all expectation, under the hands of Mr. Peale; but in so sullen a mood, and now and then under the influence of Morpheus when some critical strokes are making, that I fancy the skill of this gentleman's pencil will be put to it in describing to the world what manner of man I am."

John Adams proposed Washington for Commander-in-Chief, but the motion to elect him was made at a later date by Mr. Johnson, of Maryland. The date of the commission is June 17th, the day of the battle of Bunker Hill, the news of which reached Washington on his journey to Boston. On the third day of July, under an elm tree whose venerable age is reverently guarded, in the town of Cambridge, Massachusetts, George Washington assumed command of the Continental armies.

Dr. Thacher, an army surgeon, enters in his journal:

"July 20, 1775: I have been much gratified this day with a view of General Washington. His excellency was on horseback in company with several military gentlemen. It was not difficult to distinguish him from all others; his personal appearance is truly noble and majestic; being tall and well proportioned. His dress is a blue coat with buff colored facings, a rich epaulette on each shoulder, buff under dress and an elegant small sword; a black cockade in his hat."

Elsewhere Dr. Thacher tells us that this hat was three-cornered.

When Washington reached Cambridge he was installed in the residence of the president of Harvard College, but on the sixth of July the Provincial Congress directed the Committee of Safety to "desire General Washington to let them know if there is any house at Cambridge that would be

more agreeable to him and General Lee than that in which they now are; and in that case the said committee are directed to procure such house and put it in proper order for their reception." Two days later the Committee of Safety directed that the house of John Vassall, subsequently known as the Craigie House, belonging to a refugee loyalist, should be immediately put in a proper condition for the reception of his excellency and his attendants. He is supposed to have moved into the house a few days later, and he remained there till he went to New York, in April, 1776.

This house, built in 1759, is second to no house in America in its distinction. Talleyrand and Lafayette visited there. Besides Craigie, who seems to have impressed his name upon the property more deeply than any other owner, it was the home of Sparks, Everett, Worcester, and is best known in modern times as the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

The evacuation of Boston by the British was followed by the removal of both armies to the vicinity of New York; the American disaster on Long Island; the disgraceful conduct of an American brigade in the presence of the British landing at Kip's Bay, where Washington is believed to have invited death from British bullets because he could not stop the flight; the small success at Harlem Heights; the drawn battle of White Plains; the surrender of Fort Washington with a couple of thousand soldiers, which was the consequence of an act of treachery; the evacuation of Fort Lee in such haste that the guns and a part of the stores were left behind; and then the slow retreat across New Jersey, with a ragged and unfed army, melting away by sickness and desertion, until, although Washington had written to Governor Livingston (November 30), "I therefore entreat that you would without loss of time give orders to the officers of militia on the roads and ferries over Delaware to take up and secure every soldier that has not a regular discharge, or pass," he crossed the river from Trenton, December 8, 1776, with less than 3,000 men called "fit for duty," but about as unfit for active service in winter as can be imagined. He wrote to John Augustine Washington: "Be-

fore I removed to the south side of the river I had all the Boats and other Vessels brought over or destroyed, from Philadelphia upward for seventy miles," and when Cornwallis marched down to the river side only a few hours behind Washington he found no means of crossing. Stedman, an officer of the British army, and an historian of the war, says:

"At Prince Town the British General (Howe) waited seventeen hours, marched at 9 o'clock in the morning of the eighth, and arrived at Trenton at four o'clock in the afternoon; just when the last boat of General Washington's embarkation crossed the river, as if he had calculated, it was observed, with great accuracy, the exact time necessary for his enemy to escape."

At Morrisville, Pa., Washington's headquarters were at the house of Thomas Barclay, who bought the land in 1773 and presumably erected the house. After the Revolution it became the property of Robert Morris, for whom Morrisville is named, and still later, of George Clymer, another signer of the Declaration.

The situation in December, 1776, was so desperate that nothing could make it worse; the army might as well be defeated as scattered in any other way, and for some time Washington had been turning over in his mind a bold dash. For that he needed all the troops he could get together. He sent the most urgent orders to General Charles Lee, who had a division in Westchester County, New York, to join him. But if Washington were crushed, Lee would succeed him in the command, and Lee was an unconscionable time starting, and marched his division with incredible slowness. From this house, Mr. Barclay's "Summer-Seat," Washington wrote: "Do come on; your arrival may be happy, and if it can be effected without delay it may be the means of preserving a city (Philadelphia) whose loss must prove of the most fatal consequence to the cause of America."

From Barclay's house overlooking the Delaware, Washington removed to Keith's house in Upper Makefield township, Bucks County, Pa., from which he wrote to his brother, John Augustine, a week before Christmas: "If every nerve

is not strained to recruit the new army with all possible expedition I think the game is pretty near up. . . . You can form no idea of the perplexity of my situation. No man I believe ever had a greater choice of difficulties, and less means to extricate himself from them."

The story of Trenton and Princeton reads almost like the miraculous. Washington risked all because there was nothing to lose. Two days before Christmas, he wrote to General Joseph Reed: "Our numbers, sorry I am to say, being less than I had any conception of: but necessity, dire necessity, will, nay, must, justify my attempt." Dr. Benjamin Rush has left this memorandum:

"In December I visited Gen. Washington in company with Col. Joseph Reed at the General's quarters about 10 miles above Bristol and four from the Delaware." [That was the Keith house.] "I spent a night in a farm house near to him, and the next morning passed near an hour with him in private. He appeared much depressed and lamented the ragged and dissolving state of his army in affecting terms. I gave him assurance of the disposition of Congress to support him under his present difficulties and distresses. While I was talking to him I observed him to play with his pen and ink upon several small pieces of paper. One of them fell by accident upon the floor near my feet. I was struck with the inscription upon it. It was "Victory or Death." . . . I found that the countersign of his troops at the surprise of Trenton was "Victory or Death."

The diary of an officer of Washington's staff records at 3 A.M., December 26th, on the New Jersey side of the river:

"I have never seen Washington so determined as he is now. He stands on the bank of the river, wrapped in his cloak, superintending the landing of his troops. He is calm and collected but very determined. The storm is changing to sleet, and cuts like a knife. The last cannon is being landed, and we are ready to mount our horses."

On the march a staff officer reported from Sullivan to Washington that the storm was wetting the muskets, rendering them unfit for service. "Tell General Sullivan," said Washington, "to use the bayonet. I am resolved to take Trenton."

If other troops had crossed at Trenton and Bristol the success of Washington would have been overwhelming. That they did not get across is due, I think, not to the presence of ice, but to the absence of Washington.

The following week Washington was back on the Jersey side of the river again, and at Trenton Bridge he met the British with militia and time-expired Continentals, who overstayed their service for ten dollars, and a large part of whom had been under arms for forty hours. I like to think that Sir William Erskine spoke of him as "the old fox," that night, and predicted that he would not be there the next morning. He was not. The next morning he was at Princeton, where Colonel Fitzgerald, of his staff, turned his back lest he should see the Commander-in-Chief shot, for Washington had that instinct that tells the great commander what is the moment for exposing himself.

Trumbull's painting of Washington, which is in Yale University, was not painted till 1792, but it represents a much younger Washington than that of the time it was painted, and it represents Washington at this critical moment. Henry T. Tuckerman says of this portrait:

"Here is presented the most spirited portrait of Washington that exists—the only reflection of him as a soldier of freedom, worthy of the name, drawn from life."

Trumbull himself says he painted this, meaning to give his military character, in the most sublime moment of its exertion—the evening previous to the battle of Princeton; when, viewing the vast superiority of his approaching enemy, and the impossibility of again crossing the Delaware, or retreating down the river, he conceived the plan of returning by a night march into the country from which he had just been driven, thus cutting off the enemy's communication, and destroying his depot of stores and provisions at Brunswick. "I told the President my object; he entered into it warmly, and as the work advanced, we talked of the scene, its dangers, its almost desperation. He looked the scene again, and I happily transferred to the canvas the

lofty expression of his animated countenance—the high resolve to conquer or to perish.”

The supply departments of the army—such as they were—were at Newtown, Pa., before the attack on Trenton, but Washington was probably not there till he returned from his success. He occupied the house of John Harris, on Newtown creek, which was torn down forty or fifty years ago, but the present house is said to reproduce its appearance, and to have been built of the same materials. Newtown creek, in front of the Harris house, has probably changed its appearance very little since Washington entertained the Hessian officers at dinner. According to local tradition, General Greene had his quarters in the Brick Hotel. The staff officer already quoted says in his diary, December 27th: “Here we are back in our camp with the prisoners and trophies. Washington is keeping his promise. The soldiers are in the Newtown meeting house and other buildings.”¹

There were no further military operations of any importance till midsummer of 1777, when Howe left New York by sea. Supposing Philadelphia to be the object, Washington hurried his army to Germantown, where it encamped near the present Queen Lane reservoir, and the headquarters were in a house on the site of which is the present mansion called “Carleton.” When Howe’s fleet, after looking into Delaware bay, went to sea again, it was surmised that he was bound for Charleston. The army could not possibly get there in time to be of any use, and Washington started back for New York, to the guarding of the Hudson, and, if necessary, to support the northern army against Burgoyne; but the troops were halted on the Neshaminy, above what was known as the Cross Roads, that is now Hartsville, and where the York road crossed on a stone bridge, just north of which Washington established his headquarters for two weeks in the house of John Moland. Here Washington received the news that Howe’s armada had entered Ches-

¹ The old Presbyterian church, where relics of the Hessian prisoners have been found.—Ed.

peake Bay. On August 23d, the army marched back to Philadelphia, Wayne's division going into camp near the Rising Sun tavern, which stood just above the forks of the York road and the Germantown road; the rest of the troops encamped farther north, and Washington's headquarters were in Stenton, the former home of James Logan. Sir William Howe occupied this house from September 27th to October 19th.

Washington did much of his own reconnoitring, and his horses had no easy life. John Hunter, an Englishman, visited Mount Vernon in 1785, and called upon the horses. He wrote:

"I afterward went into his stables, where, among an amazing number of horses, I saw Old Nelson, now 22 years of age, that carried the General almost always during the war; Blueskin, another fine old horse, next to him, now and then had that honor . . . Blueskin was not the favorite, on account of his not standing fire so well as venerable old Nelson. The General makes no manner of use of them now; he keeps them in a nice stable where they feed away at their ease for their past services."

"Nelson," I presume, was white. In nearly every picture of Washington with a horse, the animal is white; and he was on a white horse when, returning from Yorktown, he rode up to the door of Robert Morris, in Philadelphia.

While Howe was at the Head-of-Elk, Washington spent a night in a little inn between the lines of the two armies. A friend took him to task for needlessly exposing himself, and he wrote back that he had a cavalry guard with him, and that he exposed himself to danger no more than duty demanded.

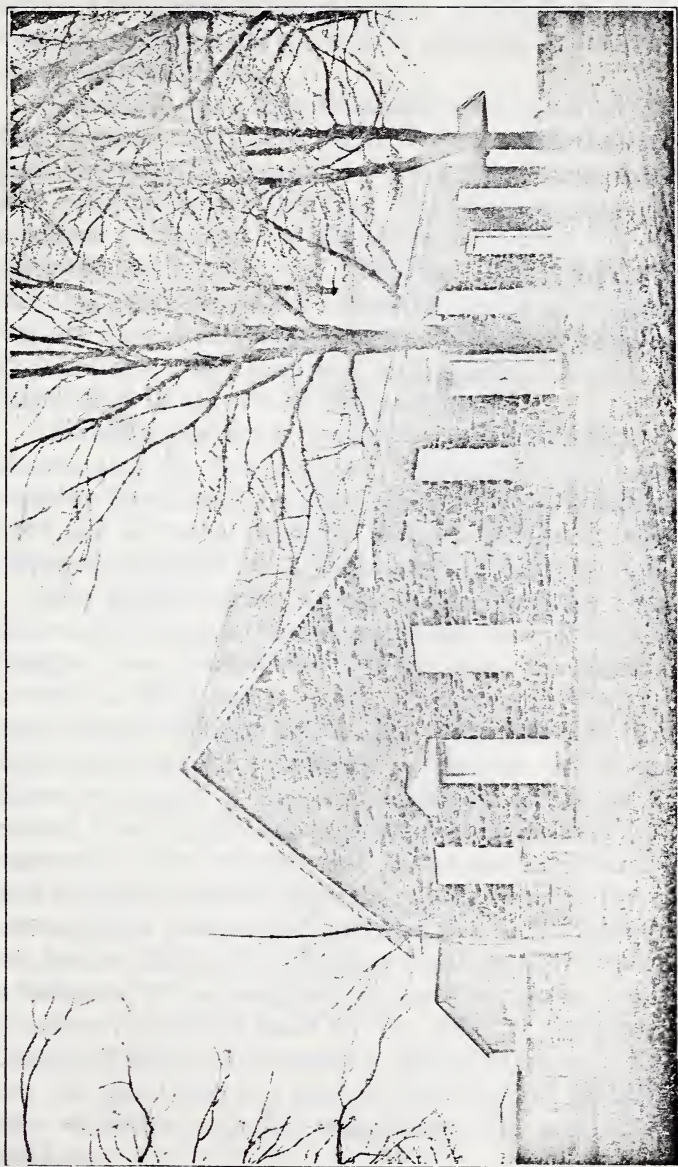
Washington fell back to the east side of the Brandywine at Chadd's Ford; September 9th Howe's army advanced to Kennett Square, and at dawn, September 11th, Cornwallis's division, with which Howe rode, started north, while a little later, Knyphausen pushed the American skirmishers to and across the Brandywine, and kept up a considerable demonstration at the ford. Howe and Cornwallis made an extensive detour, crossed the branches of the Brandywine at Jefferis's and Trimble's fords, and came down on Sullivan

who commanded the American right. Whether Sullivan could, or not, he did not maintain watch over the upper fords, and he managed to collect considerable misinformation, which destroyed Washington's plan of attacking the divided British troops. 'Squire Cheyney galloped into headquarters, and gave the news that the British were coming down the east side of the creek. Sullivan tried to get into position across the British line of march, and there is endless dispute still, as to why he did not get his right into connection with the left of Lord Stirling and General Stephen. One brigade commander resigned as a result. The fighting between Sullivan and Cornwallis was hottest at Birmingham Friends' meeting-house. Greene's division, near the ford, responded to the sound of firing and ran four miles in forty minutes. A farmer of the neighborhood was put on a staff officer's horse, and told to guide the Commander-in-Chief. Washington rode close to his guide, urging him, "Push on, old man, push on!"

But it was of no use. Howe had the larger army and the better trained men, and there was a fatal gap between Sullivan and Stirling. Greene formed a line across the field, and opening it to let the fugitives through, he checked the pursuit. Near Dilworthtown the Americans made an effective stand, and the pursuit ceased. At the sound of the firing near Birmingham meeting, Knyphausen had crossed Chadd's Ford and driven Wayne back, and that night the American army was a herd of fugitives in Chester.

At dusk, a soldier, Jacob Ritter, overheard a conference between Washington and his generals. Some of them objected to retreating further. Washington insisted there was nothing else to do. Greene asked petulantly how far they must retreat, and Washington replied: "Over every hill and across every river in America if I order you to."

The army was pulled together in some shape on the 12th, and marched back to Germantown; it rested on the 13th, and received forty rounds of ammunition, and the floating bridge at Market street was broken up; and on the 14th the army forded the Schuylkill at Conshohocken and started up the Old Lancaster road. It will help to under-



BIRMINGHAM MEETING-HOUSE

(Photo by Gilbert Cope. Courtesy of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

stand the operations of the next few days to remember that there were large military stores at Reading, and it was not certain whether Howe would attempt to destroy them, or enter Philadelphia.

Tradition says that Washington and Lafayette occupied the Wayne tavern that night. On the 15th the march up the Lancaster road, keeping between Howe and the Schuylkill, and moving toward Reading, continued all day. Washington stopped at the Buck in Haverford at 3 P.M., to write a long letter to the President of Congress, explaining why he could not spare Sullivan at the moment, to be investigated regarding the defeat at Chadd's Ford. Lieutenant McMichael says, in his diary, "We marched to the Sorrel Horse, the Spread Eagle and Paoli, where we encamped."

At night the army reached a point between the Warren tavern and the White Horse, where the Old Lancaster road and the Swedes' Ford road are the same. Washington occupied the house of Randall Malin. (When I called there, I found it occupied by a great-granddaughter of Mr. Malin.)

The British army moved north through Concord, now Concordville, and the Turk's Head, now West Chester, and Goshen, now Goshenville. Howe spent one night at the Boot tavern. A little north of the Warren and White Horse taverns began another battle. But with the first firing on the skirmish line, the windows of heaven were opened, and there was such a rain for eighteen hours as has left its record in all contemporary annals. It became impossible to manœuvre the troops, and the American cartridge boxes and artillery wagons were so poorly constructed that all the ammunition was soaked and the gun locks rusted. Washington had to fall back to Yellow Springs, now Chester Springs, a watering place long before the Revolution, and the site of a military hospital built by Dr. Samuel Kennedy, who had charge of it. It was burned a dozen years ago, but I believe the left-hand end is a part of the original building, and the new structure exactly reproduces the appearance of the old one.

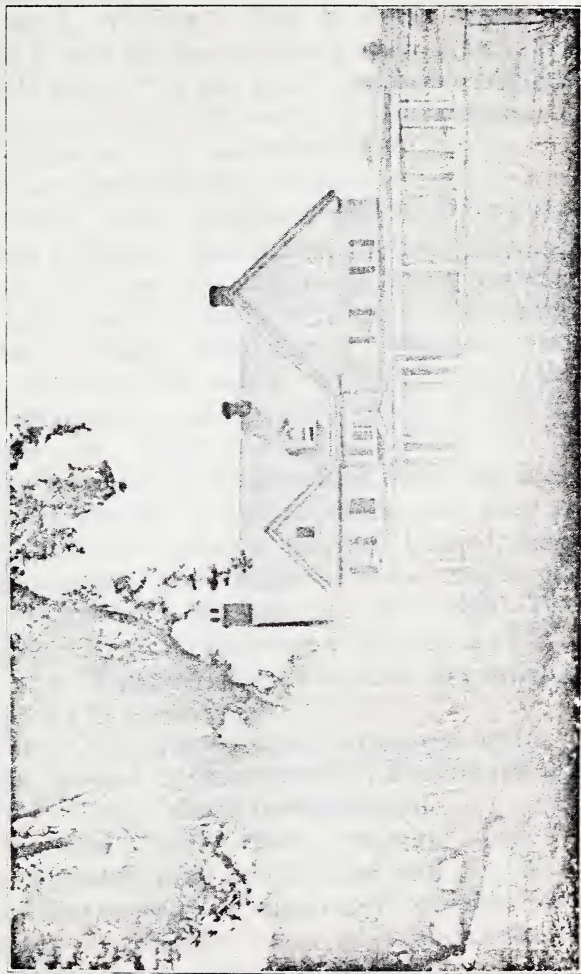
On the following day the army marched back to Warwick and the Reading furnaces on French creek, where re-

pairs were made, and fresh ammunition served out, and Washington spent the night of the 18th in the Fountain tavern near Coventryville. At night on the 19th, Washington wrote to the President of Congress that the army was then crossing the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford. Dr. Mühlenberg's journal says that the army was marching, cold and wet, through the Trappe toward the Perkiomen all night, and many officers stopped at his house for a little rest, and to dry their clothes. A part of the army crossed the Perkiomen, where the bridge now stands, and local tradition has it that Washington spent the night in the house now or lately of D. Morgan Casselberry, in Evansburg.

The next day the army started back up the Schuylkill toward Pottsgrove, or what is now Pottstown, but we know through orders issued through two staff officers, and published after Baker compiled his Itinerary, that for two days Washington was in the vicinity of Jeffersonville (then Thompson's tavern) and Fatland Ford. Near the ford stood the house of James Vaux, now replaced by the Wetherill mansion, in which Washington took supper one night, and Sir William Howe took breakfast the next morning.

While Washington's army was at or near Pottsgrove, it was actually encamped in the township of New Hanover. Just across the line, in the township of Frederick, is the house of Colonel Antes, of the militia, where Washington is said to have slept. The Bertolet farm adjoins the Antes farm, and a venerable member of the Bertolet family told me that he remembered his grandfather and his uncle telling of Washington coming over from the Antes house to drink from a mineral spring on the Bertolet farm. There is also a tradition of Washington's use of the Potts house in Pottstown.

From Pottsgrove the army moved to Pennypacker Mill, now Schwenksville, and Washington occupied the present home of Governor Pennypacker, and then began moving down the Skippack road toward Philadelphia. Thomas Paine, in an account of the campaign, written to Benjamin Franklin, says: "The army had moved about three miles



THE PENNYPACKER HOUSE
(Photo by William H. Richardson.)

lower down that morning," apparently to what is now Skippackville. "The next day they made a movement about the same distance to the twenty-first milestone," which is about a mile east of the present village of Centre Point. "Head-quarters at J. Wince's." This is Peter Wentz's, about a quarter of a mile off the Skippack road, where Washington was, a little later. "On the 3d of October," continues Paine, "they began to fortify the camp as a deception, and about 9 at night marched for Germantown."

It is heart-breaking that a battle so well planned, and so well executed, as the battle of Germantown, should have turned into a defeat. The fences between the gardens had completely destroyed the alignment of the American troops. The fog and smoke made it impossible to see twenty yards, and to this, mainly, Washington attributed the disaster. Light Horse Harry Lee says it was lack of discipline. Broken in their formations, unable to see friend or foe, hearing firing in their rear, which was the attack on the Chew house, the troops in advance were seized with the idea that the British were getting in behind them, and they started for the rear. But not a cannon was left behind. One that had been dismounted was loaded into a wagon and saved. Wayne reported to Washington that night that he had rallied the men at Whitemarsh church, and checked the pursuit, and Thomas Paine, who met the retreating army, says it moved in good order.

The army retreated to the Perkiomen, and a part, if not the whole, crossed to the west side. Thence the army moved eastward to Towamencin township, camping near the Menonite meeting-house, which remains; and Washington occupied a house, only the kitchen end of which is still in existence. The next move was into Worcester township, and Washington occupied the house of Peter Wentz, from which he had started for the battle of Germantown, and where he received the news of the surrender of Burgoyne.

In the wall of the Wentz house is a tablet inscribed with the initials of Peter and Rosannah Wentz, the date, 1758, and a verse in archaic German which may be roughly translated:

"Jesus, come into my home,
From thence never to depart;
With thy gracious Spirit come,
And thy peace give to my heart."¹

He next occupied the mansion in Whitpain township now known as Dawsfield, a mile and a half from Ambler. The place has never been out of the possession of the descendants of Abraham and Mary Dawes, who built it in 1736, and whose initials, with the date, are on the spring-house. Eight generations have slept under its roof. The enormous buttonwood tree shading the spring-house was planted by Mary when she went there as a bride. In this house Wayne was acquitted, by the court-martial which he had demanded, of fault in the unfortunate affair at Paoli. The trial was held in the lower left-hand room. The lower room in the middle was that of Lafayette, and Washington occupied the upper middle room. The washstand and the chest of drawers that were in the room when Washington occupied it are there still, but the feather-bed he used has been put away. It was in this house, probably, that Washington wrote to General Forman a letter which was dated at the "Skipack Road, 15th milestone."

On November 1st the army moved down to Whitemarsh, and Washington occupied the Emlen house, as we know from the journal of the charming Sally Wister, and letters of Colonel Joseph Reed. It was there that Washington offered a reward of \$10 for the best suggestion of a means of using raw hide as a substitute for shoes.

It was during November that Cornwallis marched through Darby to a point below the American defences, crossed the river and forced the evacuation of Fort

¹ PWRW JESU KOM
IN MEIN HAUS WEL
CHE NIMMER MER HER
AUS KOM MIT DEINER
GNADEN GUT UND
STELE MEINNE SEL
ZU FRIED. 1758.

Mercer after Fort Mifflin had been knocked to pieces. At the Blue Bell, in Darby, Cornwallis's column drove a picket of Potter's militia into the tavern, and bayoneted several before the officers could stop them.

The defense of Fort Mifflin under a rain of shot and shell from the British men-of-war and land batteries is one of the most heroic achievements in the history of warfare. Out of 300 men, nearly 250 were killed or wounded. In twenty minutes, on the last day, the ships and batteries of both armies, fired 1030 cannon balls. The "Cannon Ball house" remains with the marks of a shot that went through from front to back.

On December 11th the army started for Gulph Mill, but was detained from crossing the river for a day by the fact that Cornwallis and Potter's Pennsylvania militia were having a running fight from the Black Horse tavern, at the corner of the Old Lancaster road and what is now City avenue, which swept past Harriton, home of Charles Thomson, secretary of Congress, and reached the Gulph.

At the Gulph Mill, burned several years ago, Washington probably occupied the Supplee house,¹ with which is shown the boulder commemorating the encampment, but this is not certain. In leaving this camp the army passed under the Gulph, or Hanging, Rock.

Look reverently upon these four milestones, from a little beyond the Gulph Mill to a little beyond the King of Prussia. They are on the Gulph road; beyond them the stones have perished. It was over this identical piece of road, passing in front of these very stones, that Washington, after the war, told Dr. Gordon, its first historian, that the passage of the American army could be traced by the blood stains of the men's feet upon the snow. Those stones are the monuments to great heroism, to endurance unaided by the wild excitement of battle.

And then came Valley Forge. "That little village," says Sir George Otto Trevelyan (English historian of the Revo-

¹ Washington occupied the Hughes farm house, "Walnut Grove," about a mile away, and west of the Gulph Hills.—Ed.

lution), "clustered at the bottom of a deep ravine, gave a name to what, as time goes on, bids fair to be the most celebrated encampment in the world's history. . . . The name of Valley Forge will never cease to be associated with the memory of sufferings quietly and steadfastly borne, but not endured in vain."

The march to Valley Forge from Gulph Mill was on the 19th; and a few days later, occupying his tent in the meanwhile—a tent you can now see in the museum of the memorial church—Washington moved into the house of Isaac Potts. In March, 1778, Mrs. Washington wrote to Mrs. Mercy Otis Warren, of Massachusetts, who wrote a history of the war: "The general's headquarters have been made more tolerable by the addition of a log cabin to the house, built to dine in." The present log addition is a reproduction.

On December 23d Washington wrote to the President of Congress:

"The soap, vinegar and other articles allowed by Congress we see none of, nor have we seen them, I believe, since the battle of Brandywine. The first, indeed, we have now little occasion for; few men having more than one shirt and some none at all. . . . We have by a field return this day made no less than two thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight men now in camp unfit for duty because they are barefoot and otherwise naked."

And yet five days later Christopher Marshall wrote in his diary:

"Hundreds of barrels of flour lying on the banks of the Susquehanna perishing for want of care in securing it from the weather, and from the danger of being carried away if a freshet should happen in the river; fifty wagon loads of cloths and ready made clothes for the soldiers in the Clothier-General's store in Lancaster (this I say from the demand made by John Mease to the President a few days past when the enemy were expected to be coming this way for this number of wagons to take away these stores)."

Before the winter was over Dr. Rush mentions that 1500 horses had died of starvation, and Washington complained

that his own horses had been two days without forage.

Mrs. Washington reached the camp early in February. Mrs. Knox came May 20th, and was with her husband almost constantly thereafter till the end of the war. Mrs. Greene joined her husband, not in a farmhouse, but in one of the huts. Having acquired a small amount of Rhode Island French, she assisted greatly in entertaining the foreign officers. Lafayette wrote to his wife that he envied Knox and Greene, but he took care to explain to her that he did not envy them their wives; only the opportunity of having their wives with them.

Mrs. Washington and the other women spent most of their time knitting stockings for the soldiers. There were dinner parties—when there was anything to eat. At one of these parties—a stag party—it was a condition that no officer with a whole uniform could come in. Baron Steuben says he saw officers of high rank mounting guard in garments that looked like dressing-gowns made of blankets or quilts. There was singing, but there were no cards. All games of chance had, on two previous occasions, been rigidly prohibited in the army. There was no dancing, for not an officer had a room large enough. The following winter in Morristown, where the Commander-in-Chief and the principal generals were well housed, General Washington danced with Mrs. Greene—her grandson tells us—for four hours without sitting down.

The moment the British army moved out of Philadelphia the American army moved out of Valley Forge, crossing the Schuylkill on Sullivan's bridge. A small force was sent into Philadelphia, and the rest pushed across the Delaware at Coryell's Ford, now called Washington's Crossing, formerly Taylorsville, Pa., and struck the British army at Monmouth Court House. The last entry in Sally Wister's Journal says that the army began its march at 6 A.M. past her Uncle Foulke's house near the corner of the North Wales road and the road from Swede's Ford to Coryell's Ford: "Our brave, our heroic Gen. Washington," she writes, "was escorted by fifty of the Life Guard with drawn swords. Each day he acquires an addition to his goodness."

After Monmouth there were no considerable military operations in the north. When Greene and Lafayette had fought and manœuvred Cornwallis into Yorktown, Washington formed the project with Rochambeau to march their armies from the Hudson and east of it to the York river. It is pleasant to remember that after the capitulation had been signed, and before the British troops laid down their arms, Washington made an address to his troops in which he said :

"My brave fellows, let no sensation of satisfaction for the triumphs you have gained induce you to insult your fallen enemy. Let no shouting, no clamorous huzzahing, increase their mortification. Posterity will huzzah for us."

The morning of their march through Philadelphia, the French troops started from the Red Lion Inn on Poquessing creek, the boundary between Philadelphia and Bucks Counties.

Rembrandt Peale told the story that at the battle of Princeton a cannon ball passed through Nassau Hall, at the College, carrying away the painting of George II. Washington gave the trustees fifty guineas to replace it, and they spent the money in getting Peale to paint them the portrait of another George.

"The Gentlemen's Magazine," London, March, 1784, contained an account of a banquet in the new palace of George, (afterward) the Fourth, and known as the First Gentleman of Europe. And it also contained an account of Washington's resigning his commission. The coincidence of these two articles moved Thackeray to write :

"Which was the most splendid spectacle ever witnessed; the opening feast of Prince George in London, or the resignation of Washington? Which is the nobler character for after ages to admire—yon frible dancing in lace and spangles, or yonder hero who sheathes his sword, after a life of spotless honor, a purity unrepached, a courage indomitable, and a consummate victory? Which is the true gentleman?"

The war over, the independence of the United States of America, declared by Thomas Jefferson, achieved by George Washington, Washington presided over the Convention that

prepared the Constitution. His diary during the session of the Convention shows that he often drank tea at Mr. Powel's; that he was several times at the Chew house in Germantown, that he rode out to Spring Mill (which was in existence in 1715) to visit Peter Legaux, and visited the garden of John Bartram, the self-taught botanist, who was disowned by the Society of Friends, and thereupon carved his creed upon the outer wall of his house—"Tis God Alone Almyty Lord, the Holy One by me adord." He also rode out to Valley Forge and Whitemarsh, but he records no trace of his emotions as he viewed those scenes of his dangers and his hardships.

Called to the Presidency, he occupied for several weeks in each of two years a house long known by the name of the family that have owned it for a century, the Morris house in Germantown, and the Morris house in Philadelphia.

A bust of Washington was, in May, 1921, unveiled in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. But even that is hardly such a tribute to Washington as that paid by Sir Archibald Alison, English historian, who said:

"Modern history has not so spotless a character to commemorate. It is the highest glory of England to have given birth, even amid transatlantic wilds, to such a man; and if she cannot number him among those who have extended her provinces, or augmented her dominions, she may at least feel a legitimate pride in the victories which he achieved, and the great qualities he exhibited in the contest with herself."

The Revolutionary War lasted twice as long as our Civil War, and for six and a half years the result was in constant doubt. Yet from immediately after Bunker Hill till the last English soldier left New York, Washington was Commander-in-Chief, and we changed our commanders of the Army of the Potomac about every six months. In the Civil War the material odds were enormously on our side: in the Revolution they were so preponderatingly against us that no man can explain the result except that it was the act of God. Washington had to create his armies; to administer his staff department; to keep Congress up to its work; to direct the governors of the states; to adjust controversies of rank

among officers who were inconceivably touchy about their prerogatives, and compose the innumerable difficulties between the American and foreign officers; and he had to suppress mutiny, not only among the enlisted men, but even among the officers. Appearing before a meeting of the menacing officers at Newburgh, he found he could not read the address he had written for the occasion—one of the noblest pieces of literature—and as he put his spectacles on, he said: "Gentlemen, I have not only grown gray in your service, but I am growing blind." Then the last flicker of insubordination expired.

The Lord God of Armies never had such another lieutenant to execute his commands.

No man could have taken his place. Lafayette, Steuben, Charles Lee (who was not loyal to him), Dr. Duché, who urged him to abandon the American cause as hopeless—all recognized that Washington was not the leader of the Revolution, but he was the Revolution itself. He was the only man who could have maintained the contest. And so Lowell addresses the state which bred him:

"Mother of states and undiminished men,
Thou gavest us a country, giving him."

Some Unsolved Enigmas in the Life of Washington*

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

Robert G. Ingersoll once said, "George Washington to me is not a man, he is a steel engraving."

The words were not spoken in a spirit of flippancy, but rather as expressing that almost universal feeling that Washington has been placed upon a pedestal so high that it is impossible for those who, in succeeding generations, have come after him, to estimate his life or character, by the standards familiar to men of today, or by any comparison that could be appreciated by the ordinary run of latter-day Americans.

Had Washington lived 3000 years ago, in the Golden Age of Greece, his name would have been enrolled among the Gods of Olympus; his personal characteristics recorded as the evidences of deity, and his deeds magnified into miracles.

As it is, in the one hundred and twenty-two years that have elapsed since his death, he has become so completely enshrined in the hearts of a patriotic people, that it is becoming more difficult, as the years go by, to compel an appreciation of the fact that he is, after all, a man, albeit of superior mind and mould; of action and high aspirations, and above all possessed of the passions and human attributes which are the heritage of every being created in the likeness of his Maker.

Notwithstanding the brilliancy of the historical light in which he has been enveloped for a century and a quarter, there are still certain phases in his life which are hidden in the haze of doubt and uncertainty. And these doubts and

*Read before the Society, February 22, 1921.

uncertainties do not lessen with the lapse of time, because it would seem that all available sources of information and fact concerning their causes have already been exhausted.

One of the most conspicuous of these has to do with Washington's religious character and beliefs. The subject has been one of endless controversy.

Upon one side, there is determined and conscientious effort to demonstrate by assumption and by every available shred of historical incident, that George Washington was not only a consistent Christian, a church member, and a communicant, but that in every event in the progress of his life he emphasized his dependence upon Almighty God, his absolute faith in the cardinal doctrines of Christianity, and his firm adherence to the tenets of Evangelical faith.

It has been the universally accepted belief of Evangelical Christianity that Washington exemplified in his life those attributes of a Christian gentleman, coupled with the profession of his faith as a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

On the other hand, there have been those who have contended that Washington, like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, while acknowledging the transcendent beauties of the Christian religion, and while nominally a member of the Episcopal church, was liberal in his private religious views to an extent that frequently gave rise to doubts of his full acceptance of the denominational tenets that marked the austere churchman of his day.

Not that he was an agnostic, or in any sense tinged with unbelief, or the frank liberalism, or open infidelity, of the France of his day; but rather that he chose to follow the dictates of his own conscience, and place his own private interpretation upon what were regarded as essential in matters of faith.

This latter view, I think, is due to the fact that he was to a certain extent indifferent to the strict observance of particular religious forms, like many of the leading Americans of Colonial days.

There is evidence to bear out this statement, but whether it extended to the claim that he was unsound as to

many orthodox doctrines, is a matter of very serious doubt. There can be no adequate grounds for saying that he was a Christian, broadly speaking.

His catholicity of spirit and action were displayed on numerous occasions.

Washington was a member of one of the leading families of Virginia, and the affiliations of his family and of his friends were with the Protestant Episcopal Church, of which he was a faithful attendant.

Yet Bishop White, who knew him well, says that he never knew him to partake of the communion, and he believed that he was not a communicant.

An interesting incident is related concerning the Rev. Dr. James Abercrombie, who was a minister in Philadelphia when Washington resided there as President. The President and his wife attended Dr. Abercrombie's church.

In an interview with Rev. E. B. Neil, Dr. Abercrombie, before his death, said that Washington always left on communion Sundays after the sermon, leaving Mrs. Washington to partake of the sacrament alone.

On one occasion, Dr. Abercrombie spoke from the pulpit of the objectionable example of noted and older men retiring from the church before the serving of the Lord's Supper, and after that Washington never attended church on communion Sundays.

The story of Washington's prayer in the snow at Valley Forge is said to have originated with M. L. Weems, the romancer who gave publicity to the hatchet and cherry-tree yarn. Weems was notoriously unreliable. The basis for disbelief in the apochryphal story of the prayer at Valley Forge is aside from the author's unveracity—that Washington's headquarters were in a comfortable stone farm house, as we of today, who have visited Valley Forge, can testify, and that there would be no necessity for the Commander-in-Chief to go out into a snowy field under a lowering winter sky, to invoke a divine blessing, when he could have prayed in the privacy of his chamber, in comfort and without fear of interruption.

Vivid imaginations like those of Weems and, in our own day, patriotic Christian men like the late Dr. T. De Witt Talmadge, with perfervid tongue and chromatic descriptive, have inspired deductions that were in no remote manner justified by fact. Thus, Dr. Talmadge, in one of his famous sermons, depicted Washington as viewing the height of Virginia mountains and all the Appalachian ranges as full of horses and chariots of fire. Of course it was purely pulpit imagery. Continuing, he said:

"Washington looked up and he saw them, and with these supernatural reinforcements he gave courage to his men and they went forth and they endured the frozen limb, and the gangrened wounds, exhausting hunger and the long march, because the Generals and private soldiers altogether looked up and saw the mountains were filled with horses of fire and chariots of fire coming to the American rescue.

"Why, my friends, miracles! Washington was a miracle: a positive miracle!"

Should that sermon on Washington survive a thousand years hence, with the comments, interpolations, and addenda that might be expected, we can well imagine the writer on George Washington in that distant day, searching topographical and outline maps to locate the spot where Washington stood when he had his miraculous vision of the Archangelic Captain leading the chariots of fire and the squadrons of the skies in glorious array symbolic of coming victory.

In the World War, you will recall the story that was telegraphed from border to border of the civilized world, of the Angel of Mons, the specter in the sky, that led the hosts of France to victory. Millions believe that story today, although the newspaper correspondent who wrote it has himself told the story of how he invented the hoax.

One of the most important contributions to the religious life of Washington was made about thirty-five years ago. I am unable to state whether or not the manuscript is still in existence.

On June 6, 1886, the venerable Philip Slaughter, D.D., delivered a sermon on "The Religious Character of General

Washington," before a large congregation in the old Powhick Church, in Fairfax county, Virginia.

Bancroft, the historian, who was present, pronounced it the most valuable contribution to the literature of the subject yet made.

In the course of his address, Dr. Slaughter stated that "The recent discovery of the old vestry book of Truro Parish sets at rest any questions as to Washington's having been a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church, as it is of record that he was for years a warden of Powhick Church."

The Washington who was the Christian gentleman, is known as such, not from any perfunctory expressions, but from a constant and unstudied recognition of power divine, and the expression of his faith in the efficacy of prayer.

To this day, therefore, this great question of the belief which he actually held in his heart upon vital subjects of religion, is as much an enigma as it was when he closed his eyes in death at Mount Vernon.

Another of the unsolved, and, in its way, most romantic enigmas in the life of Washington, was his relations toward women. There has been but one other subject that has created as much discussion and doubt, and that is the question of his religious convictions.

Washington has been described, and by several contemporaries, as a man possessing a sentimental vein, and ready at the slightest encouragement to fall in love with a pretty face.

He has been depicted as a beau; fastidious as to his dress and deportment, yielding readily to the dictates of the fashion of his day, and apparently anxious to shine, or be at his best, on all occasions when there were ladies present.

Contrariwise, he has been depicted as a great man whose bosom never knew the flame of an intense absorbing love. His austerity of manner, a characteristic dignity that was rarely relaxed, repelled women, who, nevertheless, delighted to be in his company, because of his position and his fame before the world.

It was not the intent to array him as a supreme egotist, a poseur, or a social iceberg. Rather it was that his early environment, his training by a mother who was a kindly but strict disciplinarian, who exacted deference as well as obedience from her own children, held him in awe of the sex.

Washington's mother was dignified to the point of stateliness, if not severity. It was from her that he inherited what has been described as the awe-inspiring manner which he possessed.

Ingersoll Lockwood, a lecturer of a generation ago, best described one side of this enigma of Washington's relations, or feeling, toward the opposite sex. Sketching the lives and loves of Washington, he said:

"Washington never received the sympathy or encouragement born of a woman's love in the whole course of his remarkable life. He had no youth. When a child, his mother imbued his mind so thoroughly with the obligations to duty, that all the impulsive love of the boy was destroyed. He never learned to call his mother by affectionate terms. It was always "Honored Madame" in his letters. Soon after his sixteenth year he met and loved a beautiful girl in the lowlands of Virginia, but owing to his shyness, his ignorance of woman's nature, he failed to win her. This sorrow followed him through life, and influenced him in many ways. Twice since then he came near surrendering to a beautiful woman, but they failed to understand him. He needed an encouragement which they did not give. His final capitulation to Martha Custis was due more to her than to him. This love was a pure, calm, dignified affection. Although Washington was never known to kiss even a child, he was a man who hungered for love.

"Washington lavished terms of endearment upon his horses, which alas! were not for women. He sat on horseback so splendidly and so grandly that it was no wonder he excited the applause and admiration of the multitude. He was a poor walker, heavy and shambling in his gait. The oft-repeated statement that during his seven years' campaign his grave countenance never lost its solemnity is a gross exaggeration. Nature gave him a crystal box filled with the strongest feelings, but bound so tightly with locks that no one ever found the combination. He hadn't the courage to swing a wee maiden in his arms, and kiss her rosy cheek. This gravity was not affected: it was as natural as the gloom of a Virginia forest.

"The wife of John Parke Custis won from him the first, last, and only surrender that gave to her the heart of the bravest and most distinguished-looking man in all Virginia. He was what she wanted. She

was not what he wanted. There was no courtship. She had two children, and was not finely educated. She had too much of the hussy about her. She would have delighted Solomon's heart. Her daughter, though, so won over his softer nature that when she was on her death bed he threw himself on his knees and beseeched high heaven to spare her life. All Washington wanted in his love affairs was a little encouragement, and he never got it."

While this description of Martha Washington may justly be termed exaggerated and overdrawn, it is well known that while she was the prettiest woman and richest heiress in the region when Washington married her, her education was very limited. It was, perhaps, the best obtainable in that period in a rural community. It would be about upon a par of an average twelve-year-old school-girl of today.

A few years ago, at a sale of Washington relics in Philadelphia, a small volume entitled "The Jilts, or the Female Fortune Tellers" was offered for sale. It bore the autograph of Martha Washington. It brought \$100, largely because the auctioneer, in offering it, remarked concerning the character of the book, "I regret to say that this is rather indelicate."

The mystery of Washington's "lowland beauty" has always been a mystery, even during his life. He was seemingly in love with two or three young women. Whether in each case it was a harmless flirtation, with an exhibition of gallantry, courteous address, and attention to a pretty woman, has never been solved.

There was one Virginia girl, though, to whom Washington referred frequently as "My lowland beauty," and even Benson J. Lossing, the historian, discusses this affair at some length. Washington proposed marriage to her, whoever she was.

Miss Betty Fauntleroy seems to be the one singled out for this great distinction, because in a letter of May 20, 1752, to her father, or perhaps, a brother, William Fauntleroy, Sr., in Richmond, Washington says:

"May 20th, 1752—Sir: I should have been down long before this, but my business in Fredericksburg detained me somewhat longer than I expected, and immediately upon my return from thence, I was taken

with a violent pleurisy which has reduced me very low, but propose as soon as I recover my strength to wait on Miss Bettie in hopes of a reconsideration of the former cruel sentence and to see if I cannot obtain a decision in my favor. I have enclosed a letter to her which I should be much obliged to you for the delivery of it. I have nothing to add but my best respects to your good lady and family, and that I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

G. WASHINGTON.

Wm. Fauntleroy, Sr.
In Richmond."

Whether this letter was to the father or some other near relative of the girl, whether Washington ever renewed his suit as he wrote he would—are unanswered questions. He was at this period of his life nothing but a surveyor and Indian hunter.

According to many accounts, he made three attempts before he could get a lady to accept him. It is said that he in vain addressed, not only Miss Betty Fauntleroy, but Miss Mary Ambler, and Miss Lucy Grim.

A beautiful New York girl, Miss Mary Phillipse, whom he met while on his way to Boston, seemed to attract him greatly. She was an heiress with aristocratic connections.

A careful study of the love affairs of Washington shows that there was no real romance after his "lowland beauty" disappeared from his life. His courtship with the widow Custis was brief and formal, though their married life was placid until the end.

By all odds the most interesting mystery is that of "The Miniature."

Washington, as the commanding figure in the new Republic of the west, posed more frequently for artists than any other American of his time.

The story of the miniature was vouched for in 1887 by Bushrod C. Washington, of Charleston, West Virginia, a blood connection of the family.

A member of the Washington family, who had seen the great General in his life-time, was walking one day, in the early part of the last century, through London, when his

attention was drawn to a huge porcelain vase in a shop window. He was particularly attracted to it by reason of the fact that a bust portrait of Washington was painted on the outer surface.

He had seen practically all the portraits of Washington, but it seemed that the unknown artist had been more successful than any of the others in depicting the real countenance of the hero of the Revolution.

The vase, itself of no particular value, was bought, and the circular piece containing the portrait cut out and brought to America.

It hung for many years in a room at Mount Vernon, but the identity of the artist was never discovered.

About the middle of the last century, the miniature came into the possession of Lawrence Washington. During the Civil War, his house was in possession of the invading army, during which time the porcelain vanished. It was subsequently returned to him, and was one of his possessions up to the time of his death.

The miniature mystery has never been solved. It is probable that it was the work of an obscure artist, for it was painted in off-hand fashion, evidently a copy from a larger painting. But the artist had the gift, or luck, or possibly the benefit of having seen Washington in the flesh, to paint the "father of his country" as he appeared in real life, and in unstudied repose.

The question as to whether Washington would have survived the illness which ended his life, had he not been weakened by bleeding by his physicians till he had lacked the strength to rally, is another disputed question.

Washington was not in vigorous health when he was inaugurated as President. He suffered from a carbuncle which for a time seriously threatened his life. He died from suppuration, tonsillitis and laryngeal œdema.

It has been maintained that the amount of blood taken by the physician from his system was the primal cause of his death.

This has been combatted by the medical fraternity. Some years ago, the "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal,"

discussing this frequently debated event in the life, or rather the death, of Washington, said:

"The recent strictures of a metropolitan journal upon the medical profession of his day for having hastened Washington's death, while very likely true so far as the main question, that of bleeding, is concerned, will nevertheless bear comment that venisection was so far a measure of domestic treatment at Mt. Vernon that Washington had himself bled by his overseer before the doctor's arrival, and considered the amount of blood drawn by that functionary—eight ounces—entirely inadequate."

The perversion of historical facts throughout the ages has been due to two causes: the deliberate liar, and the wilful forger of manuscripts and documents.

There is another class, who cannot be ranked simply as careless writers, who have contributed their share to the distortion of truth and the inaccuracy of narrative, as the result of vivid imagination and the reckless disregard of the necessity for verification of important facts.

It will be interesting for those who come after us a hundred years from now, to read the following remarkable mixture of fact and fiction, of hero worship and human traits, which came into my possession a third of a century ago. The writer goes on to say:

"Washington's riding boots were enormous. They were number thirteen. His ordinary walking shoes were number eleven. His hands were large in proportion, and he could not buy a glove to fit him, and had to have his gloves made to order. His mouth was his strong feature, the lips being always tightly compressed.

"At that time he weighed two hundred pounds, and there was no surplus flesh about him. He was tremendously muscled, and the fame of his great strength was everywhere. His huge tent, when wrapped up with the poles, was so heavy that it required two men to place it in the camp wagon. Washington could lift it with one hand, and throw it in the wagon as easily as if it were a pair of saddle-bags.

"He could hold a musket with one hand, and shoot with precision as easily as other men did with a horse pistol.

"His lungs were his weak point, and his voice was never very strong. His hair was a chestnut brown, his cheeks were prominent, and his head was not large in contrast to every other part of his body, which seemed large and bony at all points. His finger joints and wrists were so large

as to be genuine curiosities. As to his habits of that period I found out much that might be interesting.

"He was an enormous eater, but was content with bread and meat, if he had plenty of it, but hunger seemed to put him in a rage. It was his custom to take a drink of rum or whiskey on awaking in the morning.

"Of course all this was changed when he grew old. I saw him at Alexandria a year before he died. His hair was very grey, and his form was slightly bent; his chest was very thin, and he had false teeth, which did not fit, and pushed his under lip outward.

"He had whiskey in the morning, and at dinner two bottles of Madeira wine. He was a great lover of fine wines and fine horses."

Among a number of clippings from the "United States Gazette" of 1813-18, in my possession, I found a poem, written by John Pierpont in 1814. Pierpont was an American author, poet and Unitarian preacher.

ODE

By JOHN PIERPONT, ESQ.

TUNE—*Roderick Dhu*—Sung by MR. DUREN

Hark, 'tis the children of WASHINGTON, pouring
The full tide of song to the conqueror's praise,
Whose brows our young eagle, triumphantly soaring
From the dun smoke of battle, encircled with bays:
And while the choral song
Floats on the air along
Blending the tones of the mellowing strain,
Bright o'er the melting soul
New scenes of glory roll,
Glory that spreads its broad blaze o'er the main.

Hail to the brave, who in language of thunder,
Born on the foam-crested billows to war,
Claims of their foe no inglorious plunder—
The trident of Neptune and victory's car:
And while Columbia's stars
Wave o'er her gallant tars,
Bounding in triumph along the blue deep;
See o'er the bloody wave,
Many a Briton's grave,
The proud queen of ocean disconsolate weep.

Hail to yon orient star, that adorning
And gilding the skies with its ravishing light,

Blazes unquench'd on the forehead of morning,
And dispels the cold gloom of oppression and night:
 'Tis by that ruddy glow
 Slaves and their tyrant know
Freedom and hope to the world have returned,
 So shone the pilot star,
 Hail'd from the east afar
That over the manger of Bethlehem burn'd.

Peace to the dust that in silence reposes
 Beneath the dark boughs of the cypress and yew;
Let spring deck the spot with her earliest roses,
 And Heav'n wash their leaves in its holiest dew:
 Calm as the Hero's soul
 Let the Potomack roll
Wat'ring the willow that over him weeps,
 And, from his glassy wave,
 Softly reflect the grave
Where all that was mortal of WASHINGTON sleeps.

Hail holy shade! we would proudly inherit
 The flame that once deign'd in thy bosom to glow
While yet but one spark of thy patriot spirit,
 Thy godlike benevolence lingers below.
 Ne'er let thy fav'rite tree
 Sacred to Liberty
By Anarchy's sulph'ry sirocco be riven,
 But in immortal bloom
 Rise o'er its planter's tomb
Rich with perfume as the breezes of Heaven.

Report of Annalist For 1921*

By CLARA A. BECK

MUNICIPAL

Norristown's borough treasurer has issued the statement that official figures prove that our borough assets are a million dollars ahead of our liabilities, and that we have a great borrowing capacity. This in answer to the critics who asked—"Is Norristown broke?"

Norristown has elected three women school directors; they are Mrs. George Brecht, Mrs. Anna Weber and Mrs. A. B. Garner; also, Emma C. Alker as tax collector, who, in turn, has appointed Miss Lillian R. Kriebel as her deputy. Miss Laker, on the Democratic ticket, received a record majority of over 3,000 votes—a high tribute to her ability and popularity.

The proposed Constitutional Convention, sponsored by Governor Sproul, was defeated in Montgomery county by a majority of 1191 votes.

Freas Styer, Esq., of Norristown, has been appointed by President Harding Superintendent of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

John S. Kennedy has been appointed Superintendent of Valley Forge Park, to succeed the late Col. S. S. Hartranft.

Following the success of the Woman-Suffrage movement, the first Montgomery county jurywoman called for duty was Elizabeth Murphey, of Norristown; and the first secretary of the grand jury as well. The first forewoman to render service was Miss Clark J. Davis, of Pottstown, Pa., and the first woman juror to be excused from duty was Mrs. Bertha Bromer, of Schwenksville, Pa.

*Read before the Society, April 30, 1921.

REAL ESTATE

In building operations very little has been done this year, and the record of permits taken out at City Hall indicates the "slackest" year in construction in this borough.

The old Penn Hotel on west Main street has been bought by Lamprose Brothers, and converted into a restaurant. The first license for this hotel was issued to Abraham S. Ortlip, in 1865. It has since been owned by Jonas Heydt, Charles Ulrich, Adam Zinnel, F. D. Hildebrand, Charles Scheidt, Amos Tyson, William Finley, John Burkhart and John J. O'Donnell, who sold it to Lamprose Brothers.

The property of the Dr. Pyfer Estate, on West Main street, has been sold to Michael Garber, of West Farnance street, for \$52,000. The new owner, who is in the hardware business, will erect a new building for the use of his company.

The Dyer mansion, also on West Main street, was purchased by James P. Elverson for \$50,000, and will be occupied by the Moose Association. The residence was built by Perry Gresh; it adjoins the residence of H. C. Gresh.

William H. Gilbert has sold his property, 132 West Main street, to Harry Weiss, who conducts a "Chain Store" system.

The S. S. Kresge Co., of Detroit, Michigan, operating a chain of five-and-ten-cent stores throughout the country, have obtained a long-term lease on 6 and 8 East Main street from Samuel Tabak.

The Lamprose house, on Swede street, with another bought from the Slingluff Estate, have been purchased by the Norristown Club, and a club house will be erected on their sites.

The "Norristown Herald" has been bought by Ralph B. Strassburger, Esq., for \$90,000; he also bought the Herald building, belonging to the Wills Estate, for a price of \$1,515 per front foot.

"Rothella," the beautiful estate of the late Joseph H. Sinnott, at Rosemont, Pa., has been sold to a Society of Sisters of the Roman Catholic Church, and will later be

opened as a preparatory school for young women. The estate contains 42 acres and cost \$250,000.

One of the most unconventional and unusual residences in this part of the country has recently been constructed by George A. Detweiler, a granite and marble dealer, at Phoenixville, Pa., entirely of marble and granite blocks, from posts, coping, foot- and step-stones taken from the Morris Cemetery, at the extreme southern section of the town, at the cost merely of hauling the material away.

EDUCATIONAL

Montgomery county schools will receive \$262,859.37 from the state this year. We have 38,249 pupils and 1,008 teachers in the county.

The Whitemarsh Consolidated School, located at Barren Hill, has been formally dedicated by Judge John Faber Miller, with due ceremony. The building cost \$80,000.

Plymouth township has issued bonds to the amount of \$85,000, to cover cost of building Black Horse School, and to place an addition to the Ivy Rock School. The ground upon which the latter is being built was donated by the Alan Wood Iron & Steel Company. Most of its employees live in the vicinity.

The residents of Souderton have voted to defeat a \$60,000 bond indebtedness proposed by its school board, because the board "boosted" the tax rate to 25 mills and \$5.00 per capita. But per contra, the Norristown school board reduced its per capita occupation tax from \$5.00 to \$2.50.

The school board of Norristown has changed the name of the Noble Street School to Abraham Lincoln School, and the Markley Street School is now to be the Theodore Roosevelt School.

A library has been erected by the alumni of Ursinus College as a memorial to the soldiers and sailors who lost their lives in the World War, who were students of the College.

The new Swedeland School has an adornment over the entrance—a fine carving of an eagle, which measures six feet, six inches from tip to tip. It is mounted upon a base, on which is also carved the shield of the United States, which weighs over two tons. These carvings were furnished by the John Bolger Co., and the design by C. Edwin Brumbaugh, son of former Governor Brumbaugh.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Christmas Savings Clubs of the banks of Norristown report a distribuition of \$340,000, of which sum the Penn Trust Co. issued checks for \$260,000, and the Montgomery Trust Co., \$80,000.

Those engaged in trapping in Montgomery county received in bounties from the State, this year, for animal pelts, \$916.00.

Of the 3,099 persons, who are inmates in the State Hospital for the Insane at Norristown, are 76 former United States service men. Incidentally, the expense for maintaining this institution is about \$900,000 per year.

The "Abraham Lincoln Company" recently spent a day with Dr. Burk at the Valley Forge Museum, and in appreciation of his courtesy, a copy of the play, specially inscribed, and signed by every member of the company, was presented to Dr. Burk.

Miss Margaret Moran, of Front and Mill streets, Bridgeport, is due to receive the Hero Medal from the Carnegie Hero Commission, for frequent rescues of children from drowning in the canal.

The Federal Government has donated a cannon, weighing 1,275 pounds, to be placed in the cemetery of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Barren Hill, in recognition of the service of more than 180 men who have served in the United States armies in five wars, whose bodies repose in the churchyard; and also because the original church building was used by General Lafayette as an advanced post while the Continental army was encamped at Valley Forge.

The Mann Iron & Steel Co. have donated a three-inch field gun and caisson to be placed on "The Soldier's Lot," in the triangle at Astor and James streets and the Boulevard, at the entrance to Elmwood Park.

Among the guests entertained by the Huguenot Society at Valley Forge, on the occasion of its annual meeting, were Col. William Gasperd de Coligney, of Maryland, and Charles Newton Conde, of Canada, their ancestors having fought side by side in wars of France between 1552 and 1572. There were present also Walter Laidlow, representative of The Huguenot Society of America; Gifford Pinchot, Commissioner of Forestry of Pennsylvania, and candidate of the Republican Party for Governor of the State; Count Viviani, the distinguished French statesman, and General Robert Georges Nivelle, the noted French officer in the World War.

On May 30th, a flag was raised at Elmwood Park in honor of the 48 local boys who gave up their lives in the World War. And on the 11th of November, the Masonic fraternity unveiled a bronze tablet at the Temple in Norristown, in memory of their members who fell in that war.

Norristown will have an airport in its vicinity, to be known as "06," which number will be placed on the roofs of buildings in the neighborhood.

Rev. Paul Zeller Strodach, son of the late Henry Strodach, was installed pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Norristown.

Among the items which the "Norristown Herald" is daily printing, under the caption, "50 and 100 Years Ago," is: "The Schuylkill Bridge drifted down the river into the Delaware, and was found 25 miles below Philadelphia."

Early Friends' Schools in Montgomery County*

By HELEN E. RICHARDS

When speaking of Friends' Schools the first thing one thinks of is the twelfth query in the Book of Discipline, which reads as follows: "Are there schools established among you for the education of your children, under charge of teachers in membership with us, and superintended by committees appointed in your business meetings? Do teachers and pupils attend mid-week meetings?" This query is answered annually in the preparative, monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings. Before the Discipline was revised in 1894, this was known as the second annual query, with a very slight change in the wording.

When William Penn founded his colony, he advised all persons having charge of children to instruct them in reading and writing by the time they were twelve years old, and in 1746, the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sent a minute to the rural meetings reading: "We desire you, in your several Monthly Meetings, to encourage and assist each other in the settlement and support of schools for the instruction of your children, at least to read and write, and some further learning to such whose circumstances will permit it, and that you observe as much as possible to employ such masters and mistresses as are concerned not only to instruct your children in their learning but are likewise careful in the wisdom of God, and a spirit of meekness, gradually to bring them to knowledge of their duty to God and one another: and we doubt (i. e. doubt) not such endeavors will be blessed with success."

*Read before the Society, April 30, 1921.

In the early colonial times, the meeting houses were frequently used for schools, also, in the first mention of a separate school-house in the Gwynedd Monthly Meeting was in 1721. Howard M. Jenkins, in his "Historical Collections of Gwynedd," tells of a petition of Rowland Hughes and Robert Humphrey for the necessity of a road to be laid out from their plantation to the great road leading to Philadelphia, by a school-house recently erected by their neighborhood. The first mention of a schoolmaster was in 1729, when there was a record that Marmaduke Pardo, of Gwynedd, schoolmaster, was married at Merion. Marmaduke Pardo came from Pembrokehire, Wales, with the following certificate, dated April 18, 1727: "We whose names are hereunto subscribed being the curate and others of the inhabitants of the parish of St. David's, do hereby certify whom it may concern that ye bearer hereof, Marmaduke Pardo, of the City of St. David's, and county of Pembrokehire, hath to ye utmost of our knowledge and all appearance lived a very sober and pious life, demeaning himself according to ye strictest rules of his profession, viz.:—what we call Quakerism, and yet he hath for these several years past took upon himself ye keeping of a private school in this city, in which station he acquitted himself with ye common applause, and to ye general satisfaction of all of us who have committed our children to his care and tuition." Signed by Richard Roberts, curate, and twenty-five others. There are no records of other teachers, but there was a school at Gwynedd Meeting House, under the care of Friends, at least as early as 1793, as will be seen from the following extract of a letter written by Joseph Foulke in 1859: "My earliest recollection of schools which I attended was at Gwynedd meeting. There was no house for the purpose, but what was called 'the little meeting-house' was used. An old tottering man by the name of Samuel Evans was the teacher. The reading books were the Bible and Testament: we had Dilworth's Spelling-Book, and Dilworth's Assistant or Arithmetic. Grammar was a thing hardly thought of; there was, however, a small part of the spelling-book called 'A New Guide to the English Tongue,' and a few of the

older pupils learned portions of this by rote, and would occasionally recite to the master, but the substance appeared to be equally obscure both to the master and scholars. My next schooling was in 1795, in the house late the property of William Buzby, on the Bethlehem road, above the Spring-House. It was a kind of family school, taught by Hannah Lukens. I next went to Joshua Foulke, my father's elder brother, and an old man. He taught in a log school-house, near the 18-mile stone on the Bethlehem road. My father, with the help of his neighbors, built this house about 1798, on a lot set apart for the purpose, at the southern extremity of his premises. This log school-house stood about thirty years, and besides Joshua Foulke, we had for teachers William Coggins, Hannah Foulke, Benjamin Albertson, Hugh Foulke (my brother), John Chamberlain, Christian Dull, Daniel Price, and Samuel Jones. I have probably not named all, or given them in the order in which they came."

In 1818, Joseph Foulke established a boarding school for young men and boys on part of his father's estate at Gwynedd, and it was continued very successfully until about 1860. During the later years, it was in charge of his sons, Daniel and Joseph, and his nephew, Hugh Foulke, Jr. This school was not under the care of the meeting.

The first reference of the Gwynedd Preparative Meeting minutes to a school is dated 2-20-1798, when reference is made to Hugh Foulke and Ellis Cleaver having been appointed some time ago to get recorded the deed for the school-house lot given by Margaret Williams and Ellen Lewis. They report it has been done, and the meeting appoints Jese Foulke to take charge of the deed, and Joseph Shoemaker, the Declaration of Trust. The next month, "The following Friends are appointed to examine the situation of our school-house lot and report to next meeting what may be expedient to be done, Thomas Evans, Levi Foulke, Nathan Cleaver and Jese Foulke." The meeting approves the committee's report that John Williams should have the school lot and dwelling for five pounds a year, and fencing expenses to be taken out of the £5. The school-house must have been built about this time, as will be seen from the

minute of 2-19-1799: "The Friends appointed to consider in what way it might be left to raise the remaining part of the money for building the School House reported they agreed to propose its being raised in the usual method, which being approved and as our proportion for the support of the poor is wanted, this meeting directs that £75 be raised and the following Friends are appointed to collect the same, namely: Joseph Shoemaker, Jr., John Jones, Jr., and Joseph Shoemaker, Sr." In 1801, the first school committee request to be released, and in their place the meeting appoints Caleb Foulke, George Maris, John Evans, Hugh Foulke, and Ellis Cleaver, and directs them to visit the school when they may think it necessary.

In 1804, the minute refers to a bequest of Milcah Martha Moore for the support of a school within the limits of the Preparative Meeting at Gwynedd for the schooling of poor girls either belonging to the Society of Friends or such other poor girls of the neighborhood as the trustees shall judge proper. A few years later, a well was dug, and the building enlarged, at a cost of about \$400. The teachers must have been members of the meeting, as the first reference to a teacher not in membership is in answer to the second annual query in 1817.

From the year 1819 to 1830, the school was closed, which was probably due to the excellent free school at Montgomery. About 1820, it was taught by William Collum, an accomplished teacher, and under his leadership a very flourishing debating society was maintained. Benjamin Hancock taught here when his son, General Hancock, was born, and Samuel Aaron was one of the pupils.

The Gwynedd school was reopened in 1830, but kept open very irregularly, and in 1844 seems to have been the public school, partly supported by the meeting fund.

In later years, Ellwood Roberts, who was a member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, taught at Gwynedd, when Judge John Faber Miller was a pupil there.

At the present day, the principal is Jane W. Meredith, assisted by Lucretia M. Kester and Carrie S. Childs, and the meeting committee in charge: Mary Anna Jenkins, Laura

L. Foulke, Anna S. Evans, G. Herbert Jenkins, John M. Willis, Elizabeth Hollingsworth, John Wilson Divan, Gwendolen Evans and Walter H. Jenkins.

There was a school under the control of Friends at North Wales in 1793.

According to Wickersham's and Bean's histories, there has always been a school in connection with Plymouth Meeting, even as early as 1688, before the meeting house was built. A bequest of £100 was left by Joseph Williams, and this money was used about 1780 to built an addition to the northeastern end of the meeting house, to be used for a school. The minutes show there were three schools under the care of Plymouth Meeting. From the answers to the annual query, they were kept open rather irregularly, but there was always one, and some years two and three. After the public school system was started, these schools were sometimes partly supported by the public fund.

Besides the school at the meeting house, there was one at Sandy Hill, and another at Whitemarsh, known as the Williams School. This school was built by a committee of Plymouth Meeting in 1816, on ground left by Isaac Williams and his wife for that purpose. The first teacher was Thomas Paxson, followed by Grace Paxson, David Lukens, John H. Callender, Hugh Bell, and Joseph Paxson. The Friends appointed in 1856 to hold the deed of trust for this school were Charles Williams, Lewis A. Lukens, Isaac Williams, John Cleaver, Thomas Phipps, William Jeanes, Jr., J. Wilson Jones, and Samuel Phipps. In a minute dated 5-24-1866, "The school directors of Whitemarsh propose to Plymouth Preparative Meeting to lease at a nominal rent for a period of fifty years the school house and lot formerly granted by Isaac Williams, for the purpose of erecting thereon a new school house and continuing therein a school for the neighborhood of the same under the general school law and in no way to use same in violation of the original trust for which said grant was made." The meeting did not unite with the proposition, but that was the last reference in the minutes to this school, and about this time it became a public school.

The Sandy Hill School, also called Whitpain School, was built on ground deeded by Joseph Lukens and his wife, Mary, in 1796. A minute of 1827 reads: "The persons appointed to have the Deed and Trust for the Sandy Hill School lot drawn and recorded report that the service is performed and the Deed lodged with the treasurer and the expense paid." William Jeanes, Charles Styer, David Meredith, and Nathan Conrad were the committee in charge of this school. The school directors of Whitpain township, in 1859, requested permission of the meeting to build a new school-house on Sandy Hill lot and there being no objection, the request was granted.

The old school at the meeting house was well attended, the children coming on horseback for six or seven miles from the surrounding country. The minutes make frequent reference to the upkeep of the log stable and sheds on the ground. Ellwood Roberts, in his history of Plymouth Meeting, says there is a tradition that David Rittenhouse attended this school, and was said to have come on horseback, and barefooted. Some of the later minutes speak of the school being open during the summer season. The old eight-square school on the meeting house grounds was probably built about 1811, as it was proposed at this time that a committee of women Friends be appointed to act with men Friends in procuring a teacher or teachers for a school to be opened at this place. The children must have been restless in mid-week meeting, as a minute dated 6-26-1817 reads: "A proposal was made in the meeting to have a few Friends to sit in the back part of the meeting to preserve order amongst the children on the Fifth-day of the week. Ann Foulke and Susan Streper are named to that station." The following quotation from the Reminiscences of William P. Livezey is in line with the above minute: "In the rear of the meeting house stood the old octagonal, or as better known then, the eight-square school house with desks arranged around seven of its sides, at which were seated some forty or fifty boys and girls, with their faces toward the wall and their backs toward the teacher, who presided with imperial dignity from his desk on the eighth side with the

insignia of his office—a rod sufficiently long enough to reach and instil education into the backs, if not the heads, of the largest and dullest of his subjects. Oh! Benjamin Conard, how I remember and cherish thy precepts, revere thy memory and still feel the sting of thy rod.”

In 1855 the meeting united with the committee that a new school-house should be built, and a committee was appointed to raise money for that purpose. In 1899, the school was enlarged to its present size. Alan W. Corson and Dr. Hiram Corson were two of the prominent people who were pupils, and some of the teachers were Jesse Williams, Josiah Albertson, Alan W. Corson, Joseph Foulke, Joel Vanartsdalen, Hannah Adamson, and, in recent times, Professor Benjamin Smith, a graduate of Yale University, was principal for about fifteen years. At the present time, the principal is H. Eloise Bryan, assisted by Sara Cloud, and the meeting committee, A. Conrad Jones, Eleanor Corson Price, Mary J. W. Ambler, George C. Corson and Eliza W. Ambler.

For many years Hannah Williams kept a boarding school in the home now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William W. Ambler. It was opened in 1827, as will be seen by this minute: “It has been proposed in this meeting that a committee be appointed to give some attention to the school now opened by Hannah Williams at this place, Friends concurring therewith appoint Hannah Foulke, Elizabeth Paul and Mercy Roberts to give such assistance as may be necessary and report to a future meeting.”

Alan W. Corson had a boarding school in his home at Whitemarsh for many years, and Hannah Adamson, also a teacher at Plymouth, a school for girls at Norristown, Mrs. Stein being one of her pupils. A boarding school for boys was kept in Norristown in the sixties by a Mr. Newbold, who was probably an Orthodox Friend, as he attended meeting in Plymouth, but the boys attended the meeting at Swede and Jacoby streets. Among the pupils were Benjamin Hilles, John Shoemaker and Albert Atkinson.

Providence Meeting, which belonged to Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, was built in 1723, and there was a school under its care.

In 1810, Jacob Jones, of Merion Meeting, gave a tract of land and sum of money to establish a free school for the poor and orphan children of Lower Merion township. This was the foundation of what is now the Lower Merion Academy.

There is no record of a school in connection with Merion Meeting, built in 1695, but there probably was a school, as there are several school desks stored in the gallery at the present time.

Wickersham places Loller Academy, at Hatboro, under the head of Friends' schools, but it was not under the care of the meeting. Robert Loller, in 1810, left a two-story building and grounds to be used as a school, and in 1812 it was chartered as Loller Academy.

John Barnes, of Abington, left one hundred and twenty acres, in 1697, for the use of a meeting and school. The present school dates from 1702, and the first teacher was Jacob Taylor. About 1749, William Carter left a sum of money for the education of poor children. For many years Abington was a boarding and day school, and ranked in grade with Friends' Central in Philadelphia, but of recent years only the lower grades are taught, and it is a day school only.

Horsham Meeting was built in 1717, but the first mention of a school was the following advertisement for a teacher in the "Gazette" of 1753: "Any person well qualified for keeping a school and comes well recommended by applying to John Lukens, surveyor, Abraham Lukens, or Benjamin Cadwalader, living in Horsham township, near the meeting house, may meet with proper encouragement." Isaac Comly, author of several school books, taught there in 1799.

There were four schools under the care of Horsham Meeting in 1779, as will be seen from the following minute: "We, the committee appointed, report as follows: That upon inquiring we found that the school house on the meeting house land is wholly the property of Friends, and the subscribers generally Friends: we also find that there has been a school house lately built on a piece of land held in

trust for that purpose between John Parry's and John Walton's wholly by the Friends, and generally Friends subscribers: there is also one other school house near the Billet on a piece of land held in trust for that purpose by Friends and others, and one other school house near John Jarret's upon sufferance: the two last mentioned schools being made up by subscribers of different societies: which after being considered, the same Friends are continued with John Parry, Samuel Shoemaker, John Conrad, and John Jarret added to them as a committee, to have the oversight of such schools as may be properly under the notice of this meeting." In 1787, there were three schools. There is still a school at Horsham under the care of the meeting.

These schools were located in rural districts, and while in some of them only the lower grades were taught, Abington, Gwynedd and Plymouth were advanced schools. Some of the subjects taught were geometry, mensuration, algebra, surveying, history, natural philosophy and astronomy, and, very rarely, Latin and Greek.

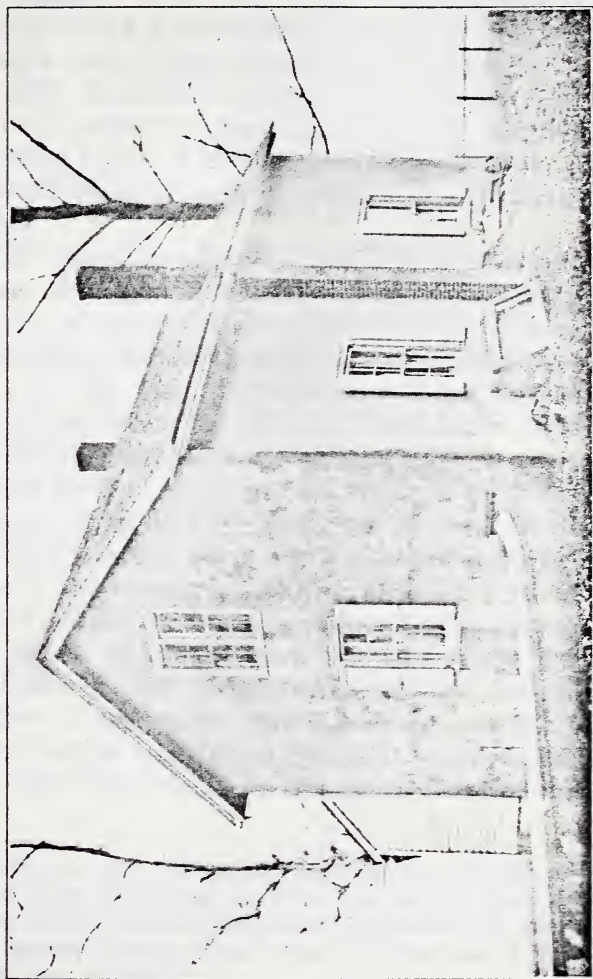
In conclusion, these words of Whittier seem appropriate:

"Long live the good School! giving out year by year
Recruits to true manhood and womanhood dear:
Brave boys, modest maidens, in beauty set forth
The living epistles and proof of its worth."

Since reading this paper, the following information has been handed to me by two of our members. It is in connection with the school at Lower Merion Meeting.

Deed. 1 December, 1747. Rees Price and his son, Edward Price, both of Lower Merion, to Richard George, Evan Jones, and John Roberts, 2,000 square feet "near the meeting house in Merion," being part of the land of said Rees and Edward Price. "To Build or Erect one or more house or houses thereon for the use of a school for such as shall contribute toward building the same, and to such others as the majority of sd. Contributors shall approve of."

It is agreed "that the master with the schollars that shall belong to the school shall have privilege of ingress egress and regress from the sd. piece of ground to a spring of water (near the sd. granted piece of



HORSHAM SCHOOL HOUSE
(As it is today.)

ground) on the land of sd. Rees Price and thereof to satisfy or quench their thirst." ¹

In 1803, John Roberts, Mill Wright, of Lower Merion, left 50 pounds "to be paid to any Trustee that may be Appointed to Build a school-house near the Meeting-house of the People called Quakers in Lower Merion."

In 1808, Hugh Roberts, of Lower Merion, left money in trust to be applied for repairing the stone school-house near the meeting house of Friends of Lower Merion.

The following is also in connection with Lower Merion Academy:

Jacob Jones bequeathed the money for Lower Merion Academy in 1803. It was to be "a School or Schools for Education of poor and orphan children of both sexes in said township without charge to said children, their parents"; etc. His sister, Elizabeth George, bequeathed the residue of her estate for the same purpose, in 1800, mentioning her brother's intention.

Lower Merion Academy was built in 1812 and is one of the noted old landmarks of Lower Merion. It has a broad piazza with a brick floor, and flag-stone steps leading to it. The posts are supported at the base by iron pivots. The desks are clumsy and heavy, while the windows have tiny square panes. All these show the age of the building, but the hollows in the steps, worn by the tramp of many feet, show its antiquity. The Academy was one of the first public schools in the United States. It was founded by Jacob Jones, who left a farm of ten acres for the support of a

¹ On 7th mo. 12th, 1791, a minute of Radnor Monthly Meeting quotes the report of the Committee on Schools as saying, "that although there are divers schools kept up within the Compass of the monthly meeting, two only appear subject to the rules and directions of Friends—one at Haverford; one at Radnor."

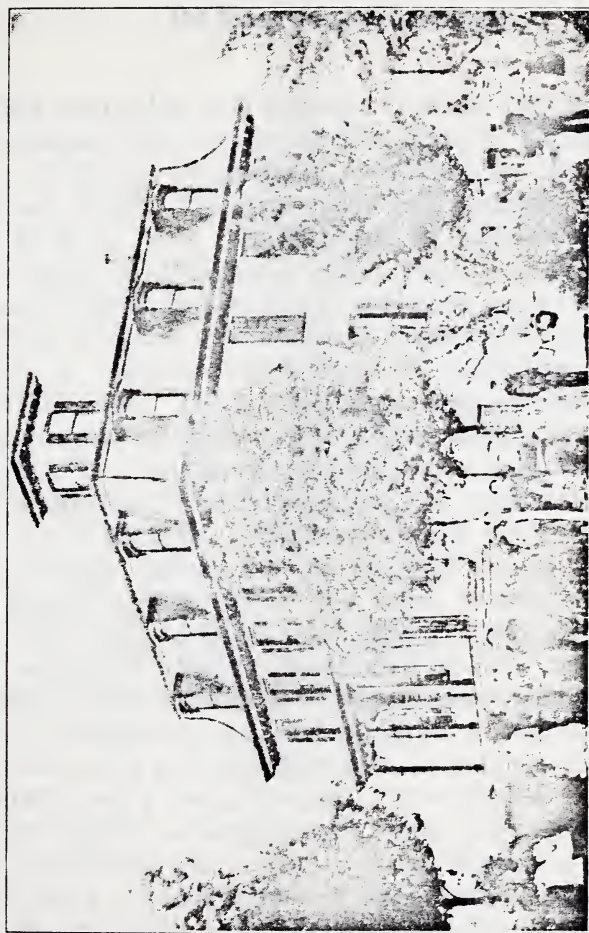
This would indicate that the Merion Preparative Meeting no longer maintained a school at that date.

On 2d mo., 8th, 1793, James Jones and Thomas George are directed to prepare a subscription paper to collect a fund for the establishing of one or more schools.—Ed.

school at which a certain number of pupils should be educated free of charge. It was a regular Academy with a classical course; was a boarding school with day scholars. The teacher was allowed the use of the dwelling and grounds in return for the tuition of the free scholars. From the beginning, there was no distinction as to sex. The question of caste soon made trouble. The "free scholars" were looked down upon so much that at one time it was seriously proposed to erect a separate building for the "poor scholars." The friends of the institution decided that this would defeat the intention of the founder's will, the first purpose of it was to provide free education. The difficulty was adjusted by doing away with the paid scholars. The first teacher was Joshua Hoopes, a Friend, who resigned on account of the strife about "paid and free" scholars. He afterward went to West Chester, where he for many years very successfully conducted a Friends' school. He was a noted botanist and friend of Darlington's. John Levering was the next teacher. He made a noted map of Lower Merion, and had a remarkable reputation as a local antiquarian. Miss Lydia Coggins was another of the very early teachers. Mr. Israel Irwin was head master for twenty-five years.

Among many of the scholars, who afterward became noted, were Charles Naylor, Representative in Congress from Philadelphia, in 1840; and Joseph Fornance, also a Representative from Montgomery county in the early forties, who appointed Winfield Scott Hancock to West Point; Professor James Rhoads, of the Central High School, Philadelphia; Rev. James Rush Anderson, D.D.; Dr. Richard Jones Harvey, one of the California pioneers of 1849; Algernon Roberts, of the Pencoyd Iron Works, and George Brooke Roberts, who was a President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The ground upon which the building stands rises above the picturesque ravine of Rock Hollow, through which the American army passed on September 14, 1777, to the Old Lancaster road, and encamped near Merion meeting house on their way to Valley Forge.



BRUNNER ACADEMY
(Courtesy of Mrs. John M. Willis.)

The Brunner Academy of North Wales*

By MRS. JOHN M. WILLIS

This institution was founded October 14, 1867, by Samuel Umstead Brunner, under the name of Kulpsville Academy and School of Business, at Kulpsville, Pa. It opened with two pupils. The first catalogue, printed the following year by S. A. & A. Helffenstein, of Norristown, recorded sixty pupils in attendance, and a faculty of four members. Science, English and business branches were taught by the principal, assisted by George E. Brecht in English, John K. Kriebel in mathematics and B. B. Rosenberger, assistant in mathematics. The school began and always remained a non-sectarian institution, the pupils attending the various churches. The pupils who did not live nearby, boarded with private families in the village. Six and eight dollars was the price for tuition for a term of eleven weeks for the academic course; fifteen for the business course. Vocal music was taught at one dollar per term, which probably was much like the old-fashioned singing school of those days. The catalogue already mentioned speaks of the Oxonia Literary Society, which gave two lectures that year, one by Rev. N. B. Baldwin, of Line Lexington, a well-known clergyman; the other given by Henry U. Brunner, a brother of the principal, and a young lawyer of Norristown.

Two public entertainments were also given. In April, 1871, the school was moved to North Wales, in order that it might serve a wider field and have better means of access from the recently built North Pennsylvania Railroad. The property owned by Lewis Beaver, on Main street, and adjoining the Reformed Church, was rented for the purpose. Here some of the pupils boarded, thus making its start as a

*Read before the Society, April 30, 1921.

boarding school. Now instrumental music was introduced, which was continued throughout the existence of the school. It was soon discovered that the building was inadequate and not well adapted to the needs and requirements of a modern school, and the principal began laying plans for the construction of a new and up-to-date school building. A plot of ground was obtained at what now is the intersection of Pennsylvania and Montgomery avenues, although at that time, these streets had not been laid out. By the spring of 1873, the new building was completed, and the transfer of the school from the old site on Main street was made in time to finish the school year and hold the commencement exercises. While the new building was under construction, an epidemic of typhoid fever was experienced in the school on Main street, during which Professor Brunner and his entire family were victims. This for a time seriously interfered with the operation of the school, and delayed the construction of the new building. Unfortunately, catalogues of the first years of the school at the new location have not been preserved, but tradition would seem to indicate that the school had not been so large. The new school was equipped with a hot-air heating system, and provided for the housing and boarding of twenty-five students, but many of the patrons were day pupils, coming from Doylestown, Souder-ton and adjoining towns. In a few years, about 1880, however, the new building began to be well filled with boarding pupils, and the course of study more advanced. Latin was introduced, and weekly lectures by Dr. H. F. Slifer on Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene. The Latin and music were taught by Rev. George Deihl Foust, who was pastor of the Lutheran church of the town, and a graduate of Mühlenberg College. Much of the success of the school must be attributed to these two men. During this year, the Alpha Alumni Association was organized, which met monthly, and was open to all students, giving opportunity for public speaking. In June, each year, an annual reunion and banquet of former students was held, following the commencement exercises of the school, which were well attended and enjoyed.

In 1883, a large bell was mounted on the building. It was a home product of an unusually sweet tone, cast by Thomas Durrin, of North Wales. The inscriptions are:

"LEARNING BY STUDY MUST BE WON
'T WAS NE'ER ENTAILED FROM SIRE TO SON,"

and

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR,"

which is in French. This bell faithfully tolled the hours for rising and assembling, from this time until the close of the institution. Since 1904, this bell has hung in the spire of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, North Wales, where it is still doing service. An amusing incident in connection with the history of the bell was retold in the Lutheran Parish publication. "Mr. Brunner was in the habit of ringing it every week-day morning at six o'clock. The people in the neighborhood needed no alarms, allowing themselves to be roused by the ringing of what is now our church bell. One day, Mr. Brunner did the opposite of over-sleeping himself. He got up at 3 o'clock, thought it was six o'clock and rang the bell. Mr. Noah Weikel, at that time, was town policeman, and feeling sure it was a case of robbers, made a hasty response. Mr. Isaac Wampole's son William was left under a similar impression, aroused himself and proceeded to the source of the trouble. But, I am told, others got up at their leisure, made their toilet and proceeded to breakfast. On one occasion, if not on several, it was also used as a call for help when buildings were on fire."

In 1884, two more were added to the faculty: Miss Elizabeth A. Smith, graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, Massachusetts, who taught English, History and Drawing, and Henry E. Englehart, teacher of Telegraphy. About this time, the principal introduced a course of lectures at the end of each term, which consisted of thirteen weeks, making nine lectures during the school year. These lectures were continued for many years. Among the men of prominence engaged in these lectures were: George W. Rogers, James B. Holland,

Col. Theodore W. Bean, of Norristown; President Rhoads, of Bryn Mawr College; President Magill, of Swarthmore; President Stahr, of Franklin and Marshall; Judge Watson, Gen. W. W. H. Davis, of Doylestown, and Professor Lambertson and Josiah Penniman, of the University of Pennsylvania. The years 1885 and 1886 seem to have had the largest enrollment, the school being filled to its utmost capacity. Miss Sue E. Stoe, of Philadelphia, and a graduate of Maplewood Institute, Massachusetts, was a much-loved instructor. In 1890, a teacher of physical culture was secured, and the pupils trained in Gymnastics, but as there was no gymnasium building, perhaps for financial reasons, this branch was discontinued. About this time, the character of the school underwent, more or less, a change, more attention being given to the classical department, becoming a full-fledged college preparatory school. From this time on, the faculty always included one or more graduates of the best New England colleges, and students graduating from the classical courses entered directly into foremost American colleges. Prominent among the teachers in this department were: Anna W. Gardner, Edith Hovey Carter, Katherine Lewis, from Smith College; Helen Cook, from Wellesley; Elsie Jones, from Ann Arbor, and lastly, Eleanor S. Ross, a graduate, and now Dean, of Middlebury College, Vermont.

While the student roll of this institution contains no names of Presidents, Governors or men of international reputation, it nevertheless has made its contributions to the useful citizenship of the county and state, as witness many names of local prominent men who had their fundamental training at this school. The many years of faithful work done have not been without their effect on the community. The doors of the institution were closed on account of the sudden death of the founder and principal. The life and history of the school were so inseparably that of its founder, that I feel that this sketch could most fittingly be closed by quoting an article from one of the county publications coincident with his death. "Professor Brunner, youngest son of Frederick and Lydia Umstead Brunner, was born at the old

homestead in Worcester, on April 6th, 1842. His rudimentary education was acquired at the Bethel public school, which he attended six months during the year beginning at the age of six years and continuing until that of seventeen. In the Spring of 1859 he entered Washington Hall Collegiate Institute at Trappe, teaching public school during the winter months and attending school during vacation; later graduating from Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York. He closed his career as public school teacher in 1867 as principal of the Jenkintown public school. In 1867 he opened a private school in Kulpville, which he conducted successfully until it was removed to North Wales in April, 1871. It is likely he was the pioneer in this section of the state in establishing an Academy and School of Business. He placed all his resources and character as a man in an expensive building from which some of the most successful men and women of today graduated. He gave North Wales free lectures for years and probably by his example we now have several courses along the North Penn. Through the efforts of Professor Brunner and Miss Lizzie Jones, the Montgomery County Teachers' Institute was organized. In faith he was a Lutheran, and secretary of the church council for a period of twenty years. Naturally a vigorous thinker and doer gathers many warm friendships—and just as vigorous enemies. But Professor Brunner was always ready for harmony in any department of life, and never hesitated to volunteer reconciliation. He was intensely interested in young manhood and womanhood. He had early struggles, but in later years, prosperity came his way and his benefactions ranged from gifts of the products of his gardens, library, advice and time, to worthy students and enterprises. We keenly feel the loss of a real friend.¹ As time goes on, he will be the deeper missed."

¹ Professor Brunner died February 22, 1901.

Morris Llewellyn of Haverford¹

1647-1730

By MORRIS LLEWELLYN COOKE

(Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia)

Morris Llewellyn was born at Castle Beith,² Pembroke-shire, in Wales, in 1645, and migrated to America about 1682-83, but of the details of his sailing with wife and two or three small children we have no record. Not even the name of the ship which brought him here is known.

Of his marriage we have the following record:

Mouris Lluellin³ of Castlebieth did this 13 M/2 1673 day in the prs-ence of those Subscribed take Anne Yong (daughter of David Yong of Morwill) to wife theire relacons haveing consented thereto & friends had fellowship therenth.⁴

¹ A paper delivered at a meeting of the Historical Society of Mont-gomery County, April 30, 1921.

² "Castle-bigh (Castle Beity—Castle of the Ambblestone) a parish in the hundred of Kemmes, county of Pembroke, South Wales, 10 miles (N. N. E.) from Haverford west, containing 284 inhabitants. * * * On the border of this parish are the remains of a Roman encampment through which runs the high road separating the parishes of Castle-Bigh and Ambliston. * * * There is also another encampment near the church fortified with double ramparts and occupying about four acres of ground." (From "A Topographical Dictionary of Wales," by Samuel Lewis, Lon-don, 1833.)

³ Among other spellings of this name are the following:

Maurice Llywelin	Maurice Lluellyn
Mauris Lewellin	Morris Llewlin
Morris Lewhelin	Morris Llewellyn

⁴ Ms. p. 12—No. 683 Quaker Registers for South Division of Wales in Somerset House, London. For this record and much else in connection with this paper I am indebted to my kinsman, Albert Cook Myers.

Ann Young was born in 1647.

The roots of the movement of which Morris Llewellyn's emigration to this country was a part lie far back in the history of the British islands. The inhabitants of Wales in the XVII century were for the most part direct lineal descendants of the ancient Britons—had little Saxon blood. They occupied Britain at the time of the Roman invasion and battled with the Romans as they did with the Saxons, Danes and Normans. Over hundreds of years they resisted these foreign invasions. History possibly presents no people standing forth more conspicuously from the mass. They yielded only inch by inch to superior foes. And at last a remnant—perhaps the best of them—scorning surrender, carried away with them their choicest treasure, their kindred and sacred penates and made Wales their chosen land. Thus was preserved their name, their language and their honor.

To the superficial observer it may seem strange—as one historian states it—that even after long centuries the descendants of such warlike men should identify themselves with the peaceful doctrines and manners of the Quakers. But as a matter of fact this fighting Cymric blood carried with it a tradition of simplicity of heart, direct dependence on God, and independence of men. The heroic stuff of which they were made yielded readily to the call to service and sacrifice for principle.

As early as 1639 one Wroth, an Oxford graduate, formed a dissenters' church. Others followed and became itinerant preachers. Of course all such were driven out of Wales at the outbreak of the Civil War, and rumor has it that Morris Llewellyn served in Cromwell's army—perhaps as chaplain. Up to that time preachers in the established Church in Wales were uneducated and at times led scandalous lives. They could not speak Welsh. This fact encouraged the use of intelligent pious laymen—husbandmen and artisans. During the Interregnum, local authorities in Wales harassed the Friends in many ways—principally through the imposition of tithes, as witness the following, bearing 28 names, each to be fined 10 shillings:

"These therefore in his Ma'ties name (we) Chardge and command you all and eyther of you yt immediately upon sight hereof you levie by way of distresse and sale of goods and chattels sum appearing at each person's name mentioned in the Schedules annexed and the sum see levied to pay in open court—" etc.

(Signed) HUMPHREY HUGHES
JOHN WYNNE

Persecutions were at their height about 1672. In 4 Mo. (June) 1677 we have a record of persecution for "Castle-beigh Psh" of Morris Llewellyn by distraint for the payment of tithes. "Maurice Llywelín has taken from him by David Rees the Priest, and Rhetheran, David's Man, one Lamb, one Pigg and in Wool, worth 5s 6d. The said Moris had alsoe taken from him in the 5th and ye 7th mo. by George Owen Priest his man — Hay and Corne worth two pounds 13s 04d."⁵ Of course the refusal to pay tithes was based on religious principles.

A most interesting description of the many ways in which the Quakers in Wales were harassed by the civil and religious authorities is to be found in a lengthy memoir written by John Humphrey whose nephew Benjamin, as will be seen later, married Mary, daughter of Morris Llewellyn.⁶ But when church services were neglected and tithes remained unpaid an edict went forth against Quaker meetings as follows:

"if any person of the age of 16 or upwards, being a subject of this Realme, att any time after the 10th of May next shall be present at any assembly, conventicle, or meeting under colour or pertence of any experience of religion in any other manner than according to the Litargie and practice of the Church of England, in any place within the kingdom of England, dominion or Wales — at which

⁵ Ms. "Sufferings," Vol. IV. to 1680, p. 382. Formerly in Devonshire House, Bishops Gate, but now Friends' House, Euston Road, London. Quaker Archives.

⁶ Howard M. Jenkins: "Historical Collections of Gwynedd," p. 101, Edition of 1897.

Conventicle Meeting or Assembly there shall be five persons or more assembled over and besides those of the same household, etc."

But it was not till the fiercest storm of persecution invaded that thoughts turned to the new world. These same men who had left England for Wales, setting up their altar on Mona, now believed the Sanctuary of God was the human heart and that in His Name they had a strong tower more impregnable than their father's citadel on Snowden. And so to America a remnant came, carrying with them, as their fathers had done, their names, their language and their honor. For many years they retained the use of the Welsh language. That these emigrants may not have been wholly successful in attaining all their objectives is shown by the fact that sometime before 1683 the wife of John Bevan, one of the earliest settlers in Haverford, expressed the thought that it would be good for children to be brought up in America "away from frivolities and temptation." The Bevan family preceded Penn.

Penn made his first grant on the 16th and 17th of September, 1681, to John ap Thomas and Edward Jones for themselves and friends including 17 families. This grant purchased 5,000 acres in Lower Merion.⁷ It extended from the Schuylkill River near the Falls towards Merion meeting house, at the junction of Montgomery avenue and Meeting House road, and beyond it. The first company sailed from Liverpool in the ship, "Lyon," arriving in the Schuylkill River in August, 1682. Penn himself followed, the same year, in the ship "Welcome." The Proprietor, or Governor, or Founder, as Penn was variously called, had provided for the use of the emigrants the most detailed instruction as to what they would require in the new country, and as to how

⁷ Although this purchase was for 5000 acres, as stated, the purchasers had to be content with taking only half of it, or 2500 acres, on the Schuylkill, and the rest in Chester county. The tract laid out for them on the Schuylkill constituted the original township of Merion, or Merioneth, from which grew, by the subsequent inclusion of adjacent lands, the present township of Lower Merion.—Ed.

to get settled most comfortably and expeditiously. It is possible that for this reason the settlers endured less hardship than in some of the other colonies.

Morris Llewellyn may have come in the Fall of 1682, but the probabilities are that he did not come before the spring or summer of 1683. His purchase of land in Haverford was recorded at Philadelphia 1-31-1684. (See Exemp. Rec. Book 5, p. 51). We find him arranging with Penn for land, two years earlier, while still in Wales. His deed from Penn was similar to those of the other First Purchasers or adventurers for land, "to be set out as provided by the Concessions, etc."

"1681 Jan. 19 and 20 deeds of lease and release and receipt, William Penn granted to Morris Lewhelin, of the Parish of Castle Booth, Co. Pembroke, Husbandman, 500 acres of land laid out in Pennsylvania; consideration £10.

Witnesses: Harbt Springett: Ben Griffiths, Thos. Coxe."⁸

Morris Llewellyn's purchase of 500 acres, which apparently included 250 for his brother John, was a part of a grant of 3,000 acres subscribed for by Lewis David of Pembrokeshire on behalf of Company No. 5, and conveyed to him March 2, 1681. Lewis David himself retained 750 acres. Two entries in the record of 1683 suggest that Morris Llewellyn may have arrived early in that year. On the twenty-fourth of March⁹ Penn himself signed the following order¹⁰ on Thomas Holme, Surveyor General. It was written by his secretary, Philip Theodore Lehnmann, and sealed with the "lesser seal" of the Province. The order reads:

"William Penn Proprietary—Governr of ye Province of Pennsilvania, & ye Territories thereunto belonging.

At ye Request of Mauris Lewellin, Purchaser yt I would grant him to take up Two hundred & fifty Acres of Land in ye County of Phila-

⁸ Pp. 125-129, Surveyr General Ms. Book of Lease and Release, B2, Land Office, Harrisburg.

⁹ According to "Old Style" reckoning, March was "first month."

¹⁰ William Penn Collection of Albert Cook Myers.

8

William Penn Proprietary & Governor of
Province of Pennsylvania, & Territories
thereto belonging.

At the request of Morris Llewellyn, Gentleman
I do hereby grant him to take up two hundred
& fifty acres of land in the County of Philadelphia
which he and his wife & children shall
hold in fee simple or cause to be surveyed into him
beyond the limits of the County of Philadelphia
the number of acres in a place not already
taken up, according to the number of acres
appointed by me, & made return of the same
to my Secretary's Office Given at Philadelphia
the 24th of the 10th mo 1683

Wm Penn

For Thomas Holmes
Survey General

WILLIAM PENN'S WARRANT TO MORRIS LLEWELLYN
FOR 250 ACRES IN HAVERFORD

delphia. These are to will & require thee forth wth to Survey or cause to be survey'd unto him beyond Skulkill on ye North Side of Darby Creek ye sd Number of Acres in a place not already taken up according to ye method of Townships appointed by me, & make returns thereof into my Secretary's Office. Given at Philadelphia ye 24th 1st mo. 1683.

WM PENN (L.S.)

For Thomas Holme

Survey'r General."

This purchase of 500 acres carried with it a "city lot"—to be chosen by lot. By November 11, 1683, Morris Llewellyn appears to have found time "to go to town" and inspect his lot. Possibly he did not like the lay, and may have complained to the Proprietor. Hence the following:

"William Penn Proprietary & Governr of ye Province of Pennsilvania & ye Territories thereunto belonging

At ye Request of Morris Lewellin, Purchaser of five hundred Acres yt I would grant him to take up a Lott in ye City of Philadelphia. These are to will & require thee forthwth to survey or cause to be surveyed unto him a Lott in ye City where it fitt & make return thereof into my Secretarys Office. Given at Philadelphia ye 22d 9 br 1683.

WM PENN

R.N. Set this out at Skcolkill where it fell. it proved wet & ye Govnr orderd it to be in a dry place.

T. H."

The above document is signed by Penn himself, the text being in the hand of his secretary, Lehnmann. The foot-note is in the hand of William Penn's first surveyor-general, Captain Thomas Holme—he who really laid out the city of Philadelphia.

The original Morris Llewellyn homestead, named "Castle Bith," after the old home town in Wales, still stands at the southwest corner of Ardmore avenue and Haverford road. It was until her death occupied by the late Hannah Llewellyn, daughter of David and Ann Llewellyn. The property passed by will to the present occupant, Rowland J. Pugh. In the west gable, until recently, could be seen a stone, reading, "M A L 1693," which being interpreted means "Morris and Ann Llewellyn 1693." The stone is still in the gable, but covered.

John, brother of Morris Llewellyn, owned land in Haverford, but it must have passed to Morris Llewellyn, as we find the latter bequeathing it in his will to his son David. There is a record of Edward Llewellyn having been buried at Haverford, December 12, 1694, but I have been unable to establish his relationship.

The first entry in the Radnor Monthly Meeting¹¹ records, referring to the Llewellyn family is in 1686 (April 3), where Morris' wife Ann signed the marriage certificate of Richard Ormes and Mary Tyder. The earliest written record made by Morris Llewellyn himself is his witness to the marriage of Humphrey Ellis and Jane David, at the house of William Howell, 11-19-1686.¹²

Morris Llewellyn and Ann Young had at least four children. David was born in 1673, Mary in 1676, Morris in 1682 and Griffith in 1689.

David, in 1706, married Margaret Lawrence, of Haverford, daughter of David and Ellinor Lawrence. In 1709, he married Margaret Ellis, of Gwynedd, daughter of William John and widow of Robert Ellis. A daughter, Ann, was born in 1713 or 1714. There must have been another daughter Margaret, for we find in the will of Daniel Thomas, of Merion, who died about January 1, 1723, a bequest of £5 to

¹¹ Radnor Monthly Meeting included the Preparative Meetings at Merion, Haverford and Radnor.

¹² Radnor Monthly Meeting records.



THE ORIGINAL LLEWELLYN HOMESTEAD
In Haverford, Built 1693. Still Occupied 1935.
Morris Llewellyn Cooke and wife in foreground.

"Margaret, youngest daughter of David Llewellyn" — his executor—and the balance of this estate "to found a school in Haverford." Mary Llewellyn, in 1694, married Benjamin Humphrey. They had seven children, five sons and two daughters, as follows: John b. 8th 7 mo. 1695, Joseph b. 11th 11th mo. 1697, David b. 8th 5th mo. 1700, Daniel b. 6th 2 mo. 1703 and Owen b. 27th 11th mo. 1713; Ann, who, on 10-23-1742, married Gerrard Jones, son of Robert Jones, a first settler; and Elizabeth, who married John Scarlett. Owen, through whom the author of this paper traces his direct descent from Morris Llewellyn, married Sarah Embree, daughter of Moses Embree, and widow of John Hughes, of Merion, on 29th 7th mo. 1738. The second Morris, "of ye Indian Fields in ye Township of Merion¹³ in 1706 married Elizabeth Thomas. Anne, the only child of this union (b. June 20, 1707) was married, 10-3-1724, to David Price, son of David Price, of Merion. Morris, Jr., in 1733 married Catharine Bynon, widow of Henry Lewis, who bore him five children—all daughters—Cisly (m. Alexander Cruikshank), Mary (m. James Trueman), Elizabeth (m. George Webster), Catharine (m. Isaac Taylor) and Margaret (m. Evan Evans).

Morris, Jr., died in 1749. His will carries a seal, picturing a man on horseback — possibly having some armorial significance. Among the interesting items on the inventory of his estate are "Negro man £50, negro woman £35, negro child £15." Among the expenses of the executors for the funeral were "Sugar, raisins and spice S 10 d 6, barrel of syder S 10, winding sheet £1 S 2 d 11, and coffin £1 S 10." These expenditures antedated the passage of the Volstead Act by about 175 years.

Griffith, Morris Llewellyn's last child, known as "the American," probably because he was the only one of the children to be born in this country, married Elizabeth, daughter

¹³ For further details of this "Plantation on the Skoolkill" and its owners, see "The Land of the Llewellyns and Camp Discharge," by S. Gordon Smyth, Historical Sketches of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Vol. III, page 206.

of Rees and Martha (Aubrey) Thomas, of Merion.¹⁴ He had one son John, who married Martha, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Thomas; and three daughters, Marianna, Ariadne and Elizabeth, who married Captain John Young. Griffith Llewellyn evidently married a second time, as in his will he refers to "my beloved wife Mary." Griffith was commissioned as a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia on May 27, 1745. He died in 1752. His home had been in Merion, nearby the Indian Field plantation.

The oldest line-stone in Haverford Township (discovered by Samuel M. Garrigues, Surveyor, of Bryn Mawr, in 1889) and "the first evidence we have of a settlement" in the township, formerly stood on the line of the Hannah Llewellyn property, and the meadow of the Haverford College corporation, on the northeast bank of Cobb's Creek, about 200 yards northwest of Ardmore Avenue station, on the Philadelphia and Western Railway "near the spring-house of Edwin Johnson." The stone marked the corner of the land of Thomas Ellis, on the South, Morris Llewellyn on the East, and David Llewellyn on the West. On the east face of the stone is cut: "C — D M L"; and on the west face: "C — M D L L — A T E — 1683."

According to Surveyor Garrigues,¹⁵ this survey was made March 2, 1683. I have been unable to locate any authority for this date. The statement apparently carries with it the assumption that this stone was set about this time. As we have no reason to believe that Morris Llewellyn had a brother named David, the initials on the stone doubtless

¹⁴ Elizabeth, daughter of Rees and Martha (Aubrey) Thomas, married, 3-7-1724, at Radnor Meeting, Samuel Harry. Her father, in his will, made in 1742, calls her "my daughter *Elizth. Harry, wife of Saml. Harry.*" No marriage of Griffith Llewellyn appears of record on the registers of Radnor Monthly Meeting. In 1719, however, the will of Margaret Thomas, of Merion, is witnessed by Griffith Llewellyn and Mary Llewellyn—the latter very probably the wife of Griffith.—Ed.

¹⁵ Thomas Allen Glenn: "Merion in the Welsh Tract" (Norristown, Penna., 1896); p. 39.



THE OLDEST LINE-STONE IN HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP

refer to Morris Llewellyn's eldest son David, born in Wales in 1673. This is the son who later became a surveyor.

This stone, about twenty years ago, was removed to the Haverford College grounds, and in 1928 was presented to the author by the Trustees of the College. It is now a treasured possession at my home on St. George's Road, in Chestnut Hill. Before the stone came into my possession, a piece had been broken off the top, so that a small cross, on what had been the east face, is missing.

The 500 acres of land which Morris Llewellyn purchased from Penn on January 19-20, 1681,¹⁶ was eventually laid out entirely in Haverford Township. One piece of 60 acres began about the line of Cobbs Creek, and extended on either side of the present Ardmore avenue northeast to the Merion township line. This is the plot on which the home-
stead was erected. The other piece laid out as 400 acres (resurveyed to 434 acres) lies immediately south of the Radnor township line, and extended from Darby Creek to the Merion township line. The northern half of this plot is credited to Morris' brother John, on the early plans. But when, on his death, Morris willed to his son David "one hundred and sixty acres of land near Darby Creek that was formerly my brother John Llewellyn's," it was taken from the southern half of the strip.

In 1683—the date on the stone—David was only ten years old. On 1-27-1692 we find him witnessing the will of Ellin Ellis, of Haverford. On 2-22-1693, in company with his parents, he was a witness at the marriage of Lewis Walker and Mary Morris, at Haverford. On 10-4-1694 he was present at the wedding of his sister Mary to Benjamin Humphrey. This was the year in which he came of age. It is possible that about this time Morris Llewellyn presented to his eldest son David a part of the original home site, and that when surveyor David Llewellyn took possession, he carved and set up the stone to delimit his new possessions. It is also possible that the markings on the west face were originally "C—MDLL." The markings "A T. E.—1683" may have

¹⁶ See Exemp. Rec. Book 5, p. 544.

been added at a later date. Certainly the location of the "A"—probably standing for "and"—suggests that it may have been an after-thought. The top lettering appears to be of a somewhat different grade from that below.

On the 1st mo. 1697-8, Morris Llewellyn purchased 500 acres in Merion township. It bordered the Schuylkill river for a distance of about half a mile, and below the bend in the river below Conshohocken. On the west it adjoined Laetitia Penn Awbrey's Manor, of Mount Joy. Roughly it comprised the area bounded at present by Lafayette road, Stony road, Spring Mill road and the Schuylkill river. This tract had been part of the original grant of 5,000 acres to Joshua Holland, and reached Llewellyn through John Holland, George Collett and Nathaniel Pennock, former owners. On June 5, 1703, this property was given to Morris Llewellyn, Jr., probably because about that time he attained his majority. Morris Llewellyn, Jr., added from time to time to his land holdings in this neighborhood. Descendants of Morris Llewellyn are still living on the old Taylor farm on Lafayette road, a part of the original "Indian Fields."

The present generation may be especially interested in a tract of upwards of 200 acres in Merion, purchased in parts by Morris Llewellyn, and lying on both sides of the present Lancaster road—referred to on the plan as "The Road from Radnor to Merion and thence to Philadelphia"—and running from about Ardmore station, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, to within a few hundred feet of the Haverford station. This property all but adjoined the Morris Llewellyn homestead in Haverford. A survey¹⁷ of this property made by Surveyor David Llewellyn for his brother Morris, dated 9 11th mo. 1712-13, is shown on the accompanying illustration.

A further reference to David's activities as a surveyor is found in the following holograph note of James Logan, dated 12 8mo. 1723:

¹⁷ The original of this survey, and one made by David Llewellyn, 2nd 26 1718, for Thomas Seymour, can be found in Peters Papers, Vol. 1, p. 11, in MSS Div., Hist. Soc. of Pa.

"ffriend Rees Thomas

I thought Davd Llewellyn had been long since satisfied for what he did in ye Resurvey of Laetitie's Manor on Skuykill but he tells me he never recvd any thing further that the £4:18:8 that I paid him in ye year 171 $\frac{3}{4}$. I request thee therefore to settle it with him and pay him out of the Money in thy hands so much more as thou shalt find Just & reasonable placing the same to thy Brother Aubrey & his Trustees acct wch on these terms shall be approved by

Thy assured ffriend,

JAMES LOGAN."

On date of January 31, 1739/40 Logan writes to James Steel:

"ffrd J. Steel

Davd Llewellyn by his Lettr now informs me that the above mentioned £4:18:8 instead of being paid to himself was discounted off his Brother Morris's bond to the Proprietr by an indorsemt in my hand but that thou refuses to allow it. Please when thou come hither to bring the bond with thee and explain it to thy friend.

J. LOGAN."

Stenton 31 Janry 39/40

And we have endorsed on the same document (text in hand of the Proprietary agent, James Steel, but signed by Morris Llewellyn, Jr., himself) the following receipt dated 17 11th mo. 1740 clearing the matter:

Philada 17th 11 mo. 1740

Recd. of James Steel (by discount on my bond) the within Sum of four Pounds Eighteen Shillings & eight pence on behalf of my Brother David Llewellyn.

MORRIS LLEWELLYN."

Morris Llewellyn of Haverford was frequently assigned responsible tasks by Haverford meeting and Radnor meeting. The Meeting was obliged occasionally to take up collections of corn, etc., for relief of unfortunates, usually new comers, or those whose crops had failed. Sometimes it was a loan by Monthly Meeting, as "30 shillings ordered out of the collection for to help him out his p'sent necessity." Again, "it was ordered by this meeting that Cadder Morgan and James Thomas do receive the voluntary gift of Merion

meeting to assist in his present distress, he having sustained loss by fires, that Richard Ormes and Stephen Bevan, for Radnor, and Maurice Llewellyn and David Humphrey, of Haverford, do receive the voluntary subscription of each of the sd Townships, to the sd use."

The Chester County records show that he was called on for duties of a public character. In 1689 it was "Ordered that Morris Llewellyn be supervisor of ye High Wayes for ye Township of Harfort and Richard Armes for ye Township of Radnor for ye next ensuing years."

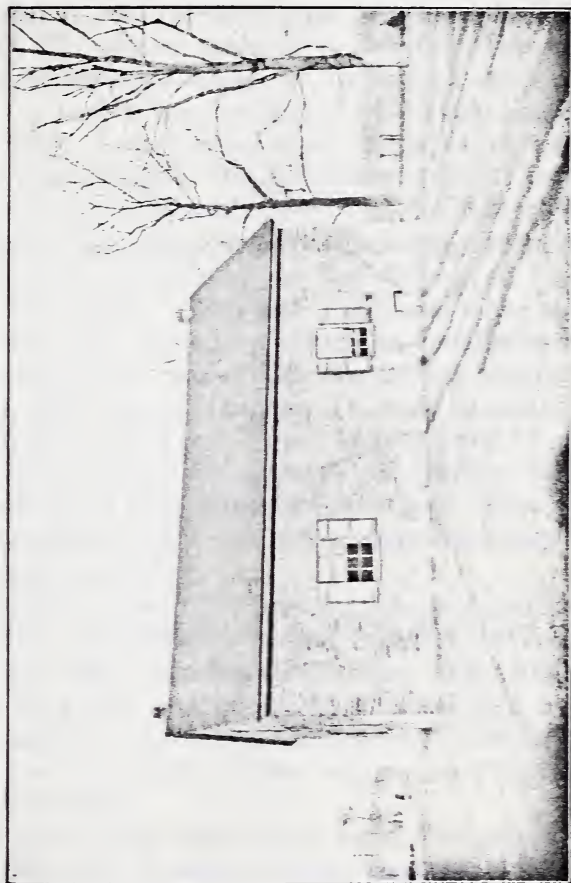
And again, "Names of The Grand Inquest for this yeare 1694" — 15 names, including Morrice Lewellyn, Richard Armes, et al.

And again, "Att a Court off Quarter ssons; held att Chester ffor the County off Chester the 12th Day off March 1694-5, After Proclamation made The Constables were called over ffor to bring in theyr Returns and they Returnd All was well and there were new ones Chosen for to serve for this next year," Morris Lewellyn among the others. He also, on occasion, acted as overseer of wills, and as executor.

Morris Llewellyn's name frequently appears on the tax lists. One of these—a "tax levied of one shilling per hundred towards the taking of wolves," indicates that living conditions were far from being on a "Pink tea" basis.

Morris Llewellyn and his family were identified with the earliest days of the old Haverford Meeting located on Wynnewood Road (formerly Haverford-and-Merion Road), near Oakmont, now Wynnewood Road station on the trolley line from 69th Street to Ardmore. The first meeting was held in the home of John Bevan, 5th mo. 10th 1684. By 13th 9 mo. 1684, it was reported to the Monthly Meeting that "There is a burying place got out for Haverford." At this time there were fifteen families in "Harford Town,"¹⁸ and

¹⁸ In the earliest days, the township appears to have been frequently called "Harfod," a corruption of Hereford—a county in England, abutting Wales. Before very long, however, the use of Haverford—after Haverford West, in Pembrokeshire—became quite general.



OLD HAVERFORD MEETING HOUSE

"eight others expected soon." The first record of a marriage at Haverford was 20 1 mo. 1689-90. At the monthly meeting held 11th 12 mo. 1696, a committee of ten members was appointed "to endeavor to end the differences between Maurice Llewellyn and three members of Meeting." Two months later it was reported that judgment had been rendered, and all "parties seem to be satisfied therewith."

The first meeting-house at Haverford was a wooden structure. A stable was ordered to be built adjoining, 10, 11th mo. 1694. A committee was appointed 11 mo. 1695 to plan for a new building. On 14 January 1696-7, David Lewis "accounted to the monthly meeting—he had received £5 from Maurice Llewellyn in part of a legacy from Margaret Howell towards Repairing or Rebuilding of ye meeting house at Haverford." This was presumably the same Margaret Howell who signed his marriage certificate in Wales, and who had since joined the Haverford colony. Morris Llewellyn, with James Thomas, Jr., was executor of Margaret Howell's will. From 1 mo. 1697-8 until 11 mo. 1701, funds were constantly being raised in Merion, Radnor and other meetings to help build at Haverford. An entry in the meeting records, 11th 4 mo. 1702, shows the new building was nearing completion.

The interior view of the meeting-house shows it as it was shortly after completion—except for the stove. In recent years it has been "modernized." The side panels are so arranged that they can be raised and lowered in order to make it possible to have two simultaneous meetings, one for the men and the other for the women—a frequent occurrence with Friends.

Below and to the right of the right hand window in the exterior view can be seen all that remains of the original arrangements for heating the meeting-house. Apparently a log fire was built outside the building, and by means of a hood and pipe the heated air was carried to the interior through the aperture shown just beyond the shutter on the extreme right.

The inhabitants of the great Welsh Tract, or Barony, as the district comprising the three townships of Merion,

Haverford and Radnor was designated, as late as the beginning of the last century, had constant differences with Penn and those he put in charge of the Province of Pennsylvania. In 3rd mo. 1688, we have an autograph petition "beautifully written and quaint in expression," protesting against the curtailment of gifts, etc., and signed by Morris Llewellyn, among others. The reverse of the petition is endorsed, "The petitioners are worthy and very earnest about it." On July 18, 1693, we have another petition, against the ferryman on the Schuylkill, signed by "some of the most respectable people of the Welsh Tract," Morris Llewellyn among the number. Another petition requested that Quakers be exempt from any duties in connection with the Courts, as conflicting with their religious principles, but insisting that they should have part in legislation in order to control taxation. But the most important struggle had to do with the exclusion of non-Quakers from the Barony. On the 13th 10 mo. 1690, their position was thus defined:

"We the Inhabitants of the Welsh Tract in the Province of Pennsylvania in America, being descended from the Ancient Britains, who always in the Land of our Nativity, under the Crown of England, have enjoyed that Liberty and privilege as to have our bounds and limits by ourselves within which all causes, quarrels, crimes, and titles were tryed and wholly determined by officers, magistrates, jurors of our own language which were our equals. Having our faces towards these Counties, made motion to our Governor that we might enjoy the same here—to the intent we might live together here, and enjoy our Liberty and Devotion, which thing was soon granted us before we came to these parts." Penn agreed that if the Welsh would pay rent for the entire area of the three townships, 40,000 acres in all, and further date the rent back to 1684, outsiders would be excluded. This latter proposal was refused—at least that part of it dating payments back. Thus outsiders were admitted to residence in perhaps the choicest territory then open to settlers.

Morris Llewellyn died about November 19, 1730, and was buried in the burial-ground at Haverford Meeting-



INTERIOR OF HAVERFORD MEETING
Except for the Stove about as it was in 1702.

house. His wife who had died nearly 30 years before was also buried there. The early graves here are unmarked, and in most instances cannot be definitely located.

The will, drafted on June 14, 1714, in addition to the land on Darby Creek heretofore mentioned, gave five shillings to "my son Morris Lewellin," ten pounds to "my daughter Mary," and to "my son Griffith Llewellyn all the land he now lives on . . . containing by estimation 300 acres . . . and all the residue of my estate." The small bequest to Morris, Jr., was probably made in the light of gifts of considerable size made previously. Mary had married a prosperous husband, and therefore was already well taken care of. Griffith Llewellyn was made executor, and the will was witnessed by Joan Lewellin, Thomas Owen and Joseph Ambler, the first two making their marks.

Another Morris Llewellyn—probably a great-grandson of Morris Llewellyn, of Haverford—rose to local fame. "At the close of the administration of the elder Adams a liberty pole¹⁹ was raised at a small village about ten miles north of Philadelphia then known as Merion Square and recently renamed Gladwyn. A flag was suspended from the pole bearing the inscription "Down with all tyrants. No gag laws. Liberty or death." Among the protestants were Captain John Young, Samuel Young and Morris Llewellyn, all descendants of the original Morris Llewellyn. Upon word reaching the city that the citizens of Lower Merion had planted on their soil the emblem of Liberty and Equality, a squad of troops was sent out to enforce the Sedition Act. Morris Llewellyn was arrested and taken to the city, and put in prison. A great crowd attended his trial, and promised to attempt his rescue, should he be convicted. But the jury declared him not guilty. He was carried from the court house upon the shoulders of cheering friends. The other parties implicated in the affair are reported to have fled "to

¹⁹ I have been told that it was out of disturbances of this character, quite general about this time, that the design showing the Liberty Cap surmounting a pole, to which was attached the United States flag, came into use.

the woods and caves of the Schuylkill hills," and thus avoided arrest.²⁰

Stanley Shields Cooke, of Denver, Colorado, the only child of the author's eldest brother, and therefore great-great-great-great-grandchild of Morris Llewellyn, of Haverford, served his country in the Great War. To our dismay he was lost, September 26, 1918, while serving on U. S. S. "Tampa," a Coast Guard vessel, sunk all but "without trace," in the vicinity of Milford Haven, on the south coast of Pembrokeshire, Wales,²¹ less than 50 miles from the Castle Beith from which his ancestor emigrated two hundred and thirty-five years before. They both gave eloquent testimony on behalf of Liberty.

²⁰ This account is based on a letter, dated April 23, 1886, written by Thomas L. Young to Perry Anderson, Esq., of Lower Merion.—Ed.

²¹ See letter dated May 16, 1921, from Hydrographic Office, and signed "L. H. Chandler, Rear Admiral U. S. Navy, Hydrographer."



THE BURIAL GROUND AT OLD HAVERFORD MEETING

William Summers*

Late Librarian of the Historical Society of
Montgomery County, Penna.

By WALTER ROSS MCSHEA

In affectionate love and memory, we pay tribute to one with whom, in this Society, we were long associated in labor and friendship, and one who reflected those enviable virtues that are America's greatest blessing and hope: energy, rectitude and idealism. A life of modest endeavor has closed, but we know that he has left to his posterity, and to us, one worthy of emulation.

William Summers was the eldest son of Samuel (4) and Eliza (Whitby) Summers. (Samuel 4, Martin 3, Philip 2, Hans Georg 1 Summer or Sommer, the Emigrant, who, on September 22, 1752, with wife Elizabeth and five children, arrived in Philadelphia on the ship, "Brothers," Captain William Muir. Philip (2) Summers arrived in the same city on September 22, 1754, on the ship "Edinburg," James Russell, Master. A brief digest of the Summers Family, prepared by William Summers, may be found in Roberts' *Biographical Annals of Montgomery County*, 1904, Vol. 1, page 534, together with an excellent likeness of the compiler). He was born in Norristown, the county seat of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on the 30th day of May, 1833, and he passed quietly away within one month of his eighty-eighth birthday, on the 29th day of April, 1921. In this borough, then of upwards of three thousand inhabitants, he attended the public school and spent his youthful years, but for the major portion of his life he resided about four miles eastward toward Philadelphia, in Conshohocken.

*Read before the Society, November 19, 1921.

Note: A portrait of Mr. Summers appeared in Volume VI of these *Historical Sketches*, accompanying his own article, "Early Public Schools of Norristown."—Ed.

In a general store in this recently incorporated borough bearing the Indian name meaning Edge Hill, William Summers became a clerk at the age of eighteen years, and thereafter was distinctively identified with its growth and prosperity. His diligence, thrift and ambition did not long permit him to occupy a subordinate position; hence, on April 15, 1858, prior to his marriage, we find him master of his own establishment.

He was married on October 10, 1858, to Henrietta Yost, a daughter of Abraham and Maria (Christman) Yost, of a long established Pennsylvania family. Mrs. Summers was born on March 26, 1833, and died May 18, 1887. Of their three children, William E. is deceased; Clara E., widow of the late John B. Murray, and Lilian E. Summers, survive.

As a dealer in general merchandise, he attained notable success, retiring from active business after disposing of his stock, good-will and fixtures, in the year 1900. Thereafter he continued to conduct his private interests and remained ever active in that pursuit in which we find him of prominence and distinction.

William Summers was a man below medium height, of quiet, unobtrusive personality, and the possessor of those enviable traits of character that brought to him, at the behest of his fellow-citizens, unsought-for honors. He was elected to membership in town council for the terms of 1869-1872, inclusive, and in the years 1883 and 1884; in 1875 and 1876 he was called upon to fill the office of Burgess of Conshohocken. For upwards of eighteen years he was a director of public schools, and frequently, when the treasury was without funds, advanced moneys to pay the salaries of teachers. His public spirit was further demonstrated as a charter member of the Washington Fire Company, No. 1, the first formed for the protection of this borough on the hill; and, as an original subscriber of the Conshohocken Gas and Water Company, rendered service upon its Board of Directors. His civic spirit, sagacious judgment and implicit honesty were ever at the command of his fellow citizens who held him in the highest esteem and confidence.

History and biography were, for many centuries, re-written from old books, thus errors and omissions, so to speak, were perpetuated. From the modern scientific and systematic examination of documentary and now otherwise accessible but detached matter, including genealogy, these subjects are now being re-written or rendered with greater accuracy. History comprehends the lesser though intricate study of genealogy, and the intellectual bent of William Summers lay in this specialty. From his accomplishments in this pursuit, we may feel certain that he was in complete sympathy and understanding with the views of Daniel Webster, as expressed by him in his Plymouth (Mass.) discourse of December 22, 1820:

"There may be, and there often is, indeed, a regard for ancestry, which nourishes only a weak pride; as there is also a care for posterity, which only disguises our habitual avarice, or hides the workings of a low and grovelling vanity. But there is also a moral and philosophical respect for our ancestors which elevates the character and improves the heart. Next to the sense of religious duty and moral feeling, I hardly know what should bear with stronger obligation on a liberal and enlightened mind than a consciousness of alliance with excellence which is departed; and a consciousness, too, that in its acts and conduct, and even in its sentiments, it may be actively operating on the happiness of those who come after it."

When William Summers was a little boy, he looked forward to, and loved, accompanying his grandfather, Martin Summers, to old St. John's Episcopal Church, the first erected (dedicated 1815) in Norristown. Descended from patriotic stock of earnest religious teachings and observances, throughout his life he fulfilled these principles in thought and deed. His great-grandfather, Philip Summers, was one of six sons, of whom five had rendered service in the War for Independence; therefore inborn was his love for his country and its principles.

This great-grandfather, Philip Summers, a private in Captain David Marpole's (Marple) Company, Pennsylvania Militia, 1777-1780, fought at Germantown and in other battles, and is believed to have held a lieutenant's commission. His sword was a highly prized possession, and one of his two pistols, inscribed with the initials "P. S.," was owned

by William Summers. The latter loved to tell a story that illustrated some of the terrors of the Revolutionary days, when all available males were in service. He said that a number of soldiers found that the men-folk were absent from Philip Summers' farm in Horsham township, and promptly made the barn a loafing-place, much to the annoyance and fear of his young wife and children. One day these soldiers were seen making a hasty departure in all directions, and the relief and delight of the family were great when they found that the exodus was due to an officer riding up the lane and that this officer was the husband and father.

All about him, throughout the span of his long and useful life, his eyes fell upon the landmarks and scenes of the critical period of the Revolutionary War. He lived and died in the centre of that section of the Colonies wherein its plentitude of religious bodies and edifices contributed, without parallel elsewhere, so distinctly to that cause: this section was that of the three original counties—Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks—of Pennsylvania, the Keystone. With these inspirations, from the lips of his kinsmen, friends and acquaintances; from the highways, by-ways and streams; from the meeting-houses, grave-yards and stones; and from the most sacred spot in all America, within sight of which he was born—the hills of Valley Forge—did William Summers unobtrusively yet so valuably labor that he might imperishably add to our knowledge of our country's history and of its people.

He was a boyhood and life-long friend of one of Montgomery County's literary contributors, William McDermott, an active church worker, banker and contributing journalist of Norristown and Conshohocken. Through this friendship, the Historical Society of Montgomery County acquired an active member on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1897 (became a Life Member, May 26, 1897), and one of its notable supporters. In this society, in which he was elected Librarian on February 22, 1902, to which honorable post he was annually re-elected until his death, was centered his declining years and activities. His donations were many and notable; his contributions in

historical and genealogical research, of the greatest importance. Of the latter, not the least in value, particularly in view of the absence of enforced vital statistics, is that compilation of Marriages and Deaths extracted from the newspaper files of the "Norristown Register," 1803-1845; "Norristown Free Press," 1829-1837; and the "Lafayette Aurora" (Pottstown), 1825-7; a painstaking and laborious exaction upon patience and eyesight. He also accumulated a list of Marriages performed by Justices of the Peace, in Montgomery County.

A most interesting re-print appeared in the "Conshohocken Recorder" of July 11, 1913, the result of his examination of the "Norristown Register" of July 7, 1813. It set forth that "The officers of the 51st Regiment of Pennsylvania Militia and a respectable number of 'Democratic-Republicans' " sat down to dinner at the house of Col. Thomas Humphrey, Centre Square, and, after the Declaration of Independence was read, amidst the firing of cannon and with music, responses were made to not less than eighteen toasts (titles carefully recited) of the most patriotic character. And, that on July 5, 1813, a like celebration, likewise with toasts, was held on Barbadoes Island, where also, May 17, 1804, had been held the celebration, according to Mr. Summers, of the Acquisition of Territory of Louisiana. These and many other articles of patriotic value and example, he enthusiastically revived lest the public forget "the blood of our fathers and the tears of our mothers."

A notable compilation of the utmost importance to descendants of officers and privates who served in the Continental Line and Militia of Pennsylvania during the Revolution, was his contribution of obituary notices collected from Montgomery County newspapers, published in "The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography," vol. 38, page 443.

In addition to the aforementioned bodies and societies, Mr. Summers was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Pennsylvania-German Society, the Pennsylvania Library Club, and the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution.

So great was his modesty that, proud as he was of his eligibility to this latter society, it was only after repeated urging that he became a member therein on November 11, 1920. He was the founder of and the historian of The Summers Historical Association.

Few men who have lived a period of almost eighty-eight years, with unimpaired eyesight for at least eighty of them, have been blessed with William Summers' wonderful health and vitality. A fractured ankle due to a runaway horse, and a broken wrist sustained by a workman leaving a pipe on a stairway, were occasions wherein he was involuntarily out of service, save his last but short illness. Perhaps from his mother, he inherited his fine constitution and great activity, for she enjoyed fine health until a week before her demise, aged ninety years.

His travels led him from Maine to Florida, to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the Panama Exposition in Buffalo, but none gave him quite the satisfaction that a journey to Illinois produced.

He was the possessor of the original Land Warrant granted "unto (his grandfather) Martin Summers, Brother, and the other heirs at law of Anthony Summers, deceased, late Private in Hooks Company, fourth regiment of Infantry," dated 14 January, 1819, and signed by James Monroe when Commissioner of the General Land Office, and by its President, Josiah Meigs. His visit to the 160 acres here involved, located in the S. W. quarter of section 25, of Township N in Range four W., in the tract appropriated (by the Acts of Congress, May 6, 1812, etc.) for Military Bounties in the Territory of Illinois (Recorded Col. 32, p. 231 E), was a never-forgotten memory.

It was with great reverence that he caused interest to be taken in memorials, and to personally erect a new marker to take the place of the weather-beaten one in St. John's Lutheran Churchyard, Fifth and Race streets, Philadelphia, under which lay his Revolutionary forebear, Philip Summers, and his wife, Salome Reibel.

His long, industrious and widespread career, brought him acquaintances of several generations. From the indiffer-

ent and interested alike, his engagingly gentle manner brought forth genealogical treasures. His amazing memory for exacting details in connections and locations, enabled him to respond to inquiries from all sections of the country, particularly from aspirants to patriotic societies. With generosity, he gave his knowledge and his time, ever patient in his unselfish endeavor of assistance. His whimsical humor and great kindness brought him a host of friends who feel his loss. Many writers and genealogists of note appealed to him and exchanged information. He was a contributor to the Yost and other family histories, and attended their annual re-unions. He was a deep student of the archives of Montgomery County, and of its parent, Philadelphia County.

William Summers was rarely absent from the popular "outings" to historical sites and places, of the Historical Society of Montgomery County. Upon these occasions, the writer looked forward to his companionship, not only because he had inducted him into that society, but by reason of their close friendship. It was also our habit to foregather on each Memorial Day, in Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, where amidst the illustrious dead of the vicinity, appropriate ceremonies are held. And here, where many of my people lie, and with his family, William Summers found his last resting place. His last request that he be quietly and unostentatiously laid away, was reverently complied with on May 3, save that he was borne there by the loving hands of his friends—members of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, and of the Sons of the Revolution.

No greater tribute could the friends of William Summers pay his memory, than that he gave unto them in full, those noble qualities summed up by Jeremy Taylor—"By friendship, I suppose you mean the greatest love, the greatest usefulness, and the most open communications, and the most exemplary faithfulness, and the severest truth, and the heartiest counsel, and the greatest union of minds, of which brave men and women are capable."

A modest and beloved citizen of a sister republic, General Foch, commander-in-chief of the Allied Armies, is in our midst. His discovery of America is disclosed in a tribute

to the warmth of our sentiments and the character of our citizenry. He said, "Since coming to Philadelphia, many things are clearer to me than they were before. Victory has been attributed to the unity of command, but I attribute it to ideas and ideals."

We have reason to be proud of men and women who, like William Summers, have left their impress upon the community. Their ideas and ideals are the result of their inheritances and of the lessons derived from the little church on the hill and the school-house by the roadside. In them and in their memory, lives the true spirit of America.

Norristown, Pa.,

November 19, 1921

pp. 93, 99, 100. For *Kersey's road*, read *Keesey's road*

Old Roads of Norristown*

By S. CAMERON CORSON

In selecting this subject, "Old Roads of Norristown," I was governed, to a large extent, by a desire to give you what information I have been able to obtain from local records and from my personal observations and surveys. I was also desirous of presenting certain information concerning some roads now nearly forgotten, which, in several instances, are "dead." Inadvertently I may have omitted some old roads; if so, they may be added. This "Old Roads" subject is similar to that of the old buildings of Norristown, which, to the present generation, are absolutely unknown.

I here show a sketch map indicating the location of the old roads to be described:

- A. Old Swedes Ford road, State road, Swede street and Markley street.
- B. Old Paper Mill road, from Beach and Swede streets over the site of the present Beach street to Stony Creek, etc.
- C. Scheetz's Mill road, from the old Paper Mill road to the mill.
- D. Kersey's road, now Basin street, from old Green Alley road.
- E. Old Green Alley road, from a point, between Airy and Penn, on Green, to Arch and the Borough line. Vacations, and parts still used.
- F. Schuylkill River road, formerly an Indian trail, prior to the Dam.
- G. Red Rock, or Hancock's Lane.

*Read before the Society, November 19, 1921.

The Egypt road, commonly called Main street, was originally an Indian trail, and was laid out by William Moore Smith in 1784. From an early history of this locality, I find that there was a large log-cabin located on the eastern bank of the Stony creek, on the south side of Egypt street, known as "Norrington Inn." On a map made by Scull prior to 1760, he shows the site of the old inn, which, from the above description, would have been near Water street and Egypt street, but at least ten feet below the present grade of these streets. That description refers to Egypt street, and I mention it here as being the earliest authentic record of Egypt street.

Egypt road, the Turnpike, or Main street, is certainly the site of an Indian trail, or cow-path. It is crooked from end to end. One does not appreciate how crooked it is, when traversing it in an automobile or trolley car, but from the eastern borough line to the stone steps in the retaining wall at Hallman's farm, it was formerly very crooked, but today it is straight; then it bears to the north several degrees to the Reading Screw Works; here it bears again to the north to Walnut street; still to the north at Mill street; again, at a point nearly opposite Strawberry alley, it continues on this line to the old Hartranft Hotel, and there there is quite an angle, but still more to the north, until it reaches a point just east of George street; then it turns to the south, until it reaches a point one hundred feet west of Stanbridge, where the old mile-post stood. Then it makes its final turn to the north, in a straight line to the borough line, or Forest avenue.

Egypt road is two-and-a-quarter miles long; eighty feet wide; with sidewalks each fifteen feet wide. It is supposed to have been given its name, "Egypt road," from the following source, as published in Crittenden's History of Norristown, 1860. "Egypt road constitutes part of a road that originally led to the valley of the Perkiomen, which, in early times, was well-known for its fertility and productiveness, and was, in consequence, called 'Egypt.'" The saying of "going down to Egypt to procure meal and other household

necessities," was quite common, and from this, it is supposed, the road was called Egypt road.

Prior to the construction of the dam at the foot of Swede street, in 1826, there was an old road along the north shore line, extending from a point at the present boundary line between Montgomery and Riverside Cemeteries, down to Stony creek; northeast along the creek to a point about midway between Main street and Marshall street, near the present site of the West Airy street bridge, where it crossed Stony creek, and came down the eastern side of the creek to the river, and then followed the north shore line down toward Conshohocken. So much for legend. I have been unable to verify the location of this road below the Stony creek, except that part of it just described. I have a story, told me by my father, which verifies this statement; that when he was a boy, he drove a double yoke of oxen from his father's farm on the Perkiomen to Norristown, over the old Egypt road, then down the present Ridge pike to a point near the old homestead of the Hartranfts, just west of the car-barn on Main street, where there was a road which went in a southerly direction, and in a diagonal course to the present road, or pike, passing the old house where General Hancock lived when a boy, then on down that valley parallel to Buttonwood street, then on down to "Red Rock," where it joined what was called the River road. Father stated that this was necessary because there was no bridge that could be used at Egypt street over the Stony creek; that a bridge was either being built, or being repaired—he did not remember which, but that over the Stony creek, below Lafayette street, there was a temporary bridge which they used from the River road. From this same point, on the river; viz.: between the two cemeteries, there was an old road and ford prior to the building of the dam; then, in a northerly direction, it is our present Forest avenue, and has never been vacated south of Jackson street. The river road beyond this point certainly followed the north shore for many miles. There are today several roads leading down to the river, with no connection with any other road—for instance, the road just mentioned; the White Hall road; the

Port Indian road; the Jeffersonville road. The road which formed these along the river was not the original road.

It may be of interest, in passing, to note that the old road that passed the home of Hancock, where it skirts the western bank of the small run west of Buttonwood street and south of Jackson street is partly in evidence today; it is in the copse of wood at that point, although large trees now grow in its bed.

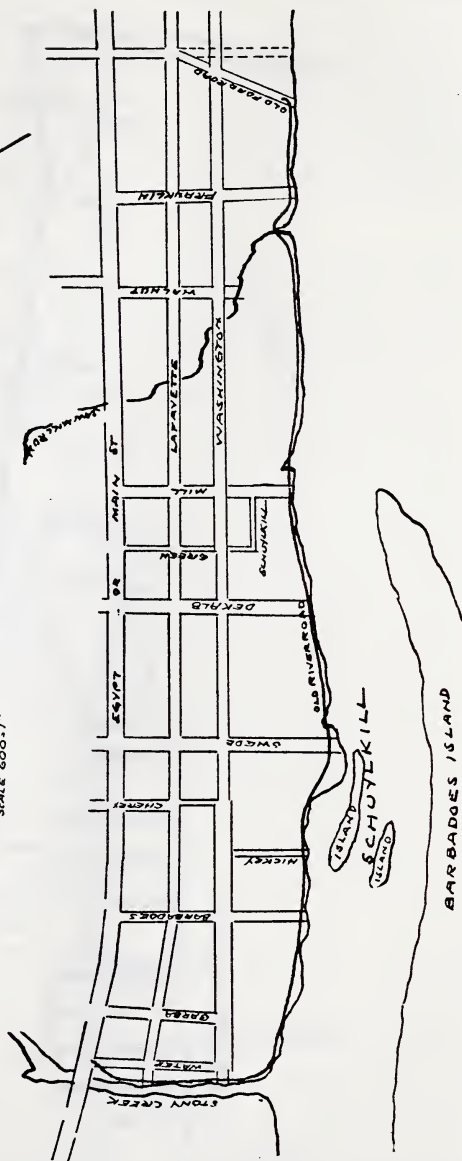
The River road may have been an Indian trail, and later, the original site for the Egypt road, before it was located on its present site.

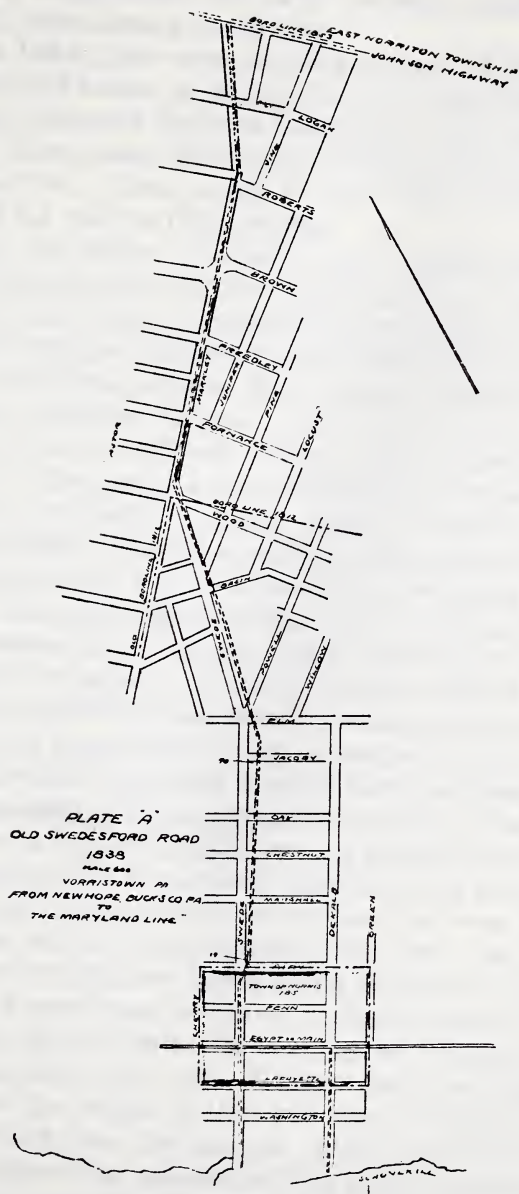
The construction of the first bridge over the Stony Creek on its present site changed the location of the old road which, as stated, ran from a point near Airy street, and climbed the steep hill to a point above the present location of Astor and Egypt streets, and then continued its winding way up to the old residence of John Chain on Egypt street, west of George.

Near the site of the first bridge over the Stony creek, there was located one of the first dams, with a mill-race running down the eastern bank of the Stony creek, thence in a diagonal line to the foot of Swede street, where was located the first grist-mill. From this old mill-race unquestionably came Water street and Schuylkill avenue. Water street still exists from Washington to Egypt streets, but from that point down to Green street it has been vacated, and only that part of it now known as Schuylkill avenue, between Green alley and Mill street, is in existence today. At one time, there were rows of stone houses on each side of the old street, from Swede street to Stony creek; not one is standing today.

Close to Water street and parallel to it, was Harper's alley, with stone houses on each side of it, from Swede street west to Hickey street; now the street and houses are gone. The same may be said of the houses on Hickey street, which ran south from Washington street. It remains today as the eastern entrance to the Norristown Insurance and Water Company's plant. On the south corner of Hickey and

PLATE F
 SHOWING
 THE OLD RIVER ROAD
 FROM
 STONY CREEK TO SNEDES FORD
 ABOUT
 1820
 BEFORE THE DAM WAS ERECTED
 NORRISTOWN PA
 SCALE 600' = 1"





Washington street stood the first Catholic church, which was burned down, many years ago.

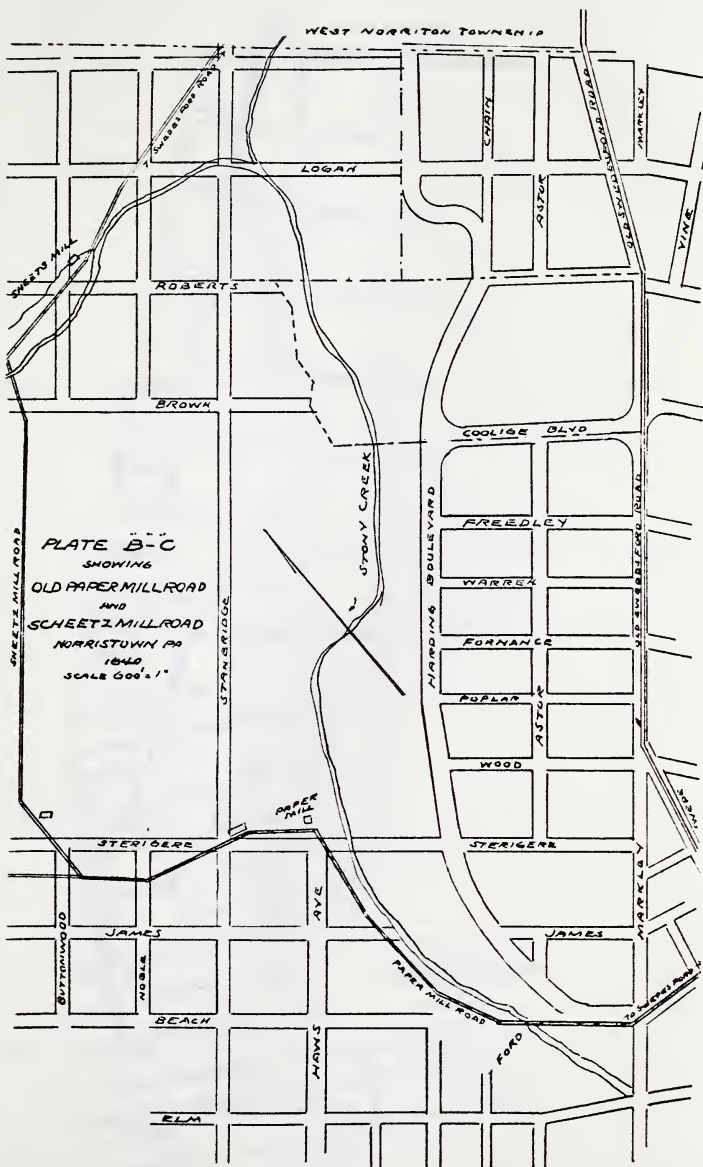
Prior to 1834, there was an old road out of Norristown, described in old books as being along the east bank of the Stony creek, yet some distance therefrom, and it was called the Swedes Ford road. Over it the British marched, and, in fact, camped for a time along it; and over it Washington marched on his way to Whitemarsh.

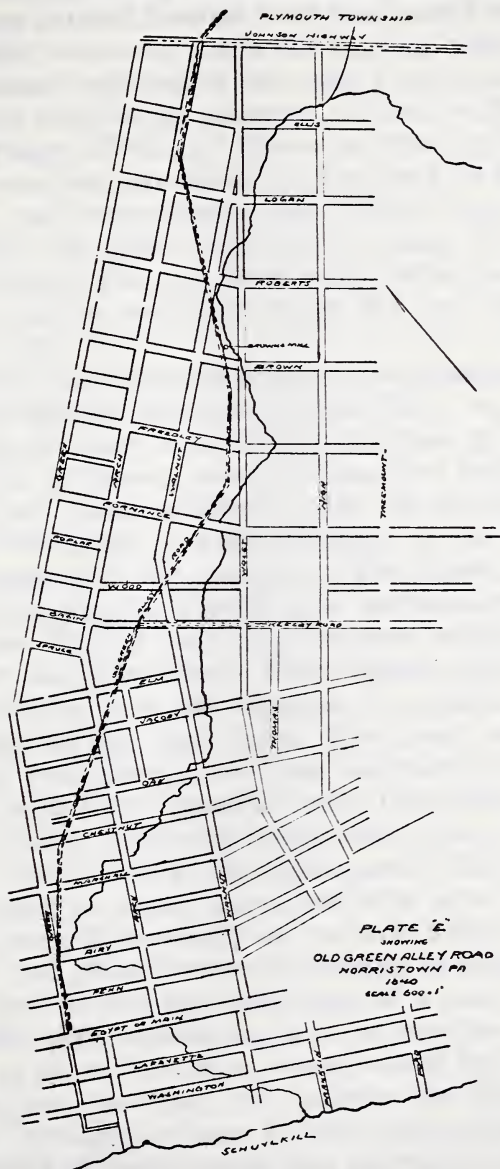
In 1834, the State ordered a road opened from New Hope, in Bucks county, to the Maryland line. I have seen that old map, and from it copied the description as is passed through "the village of Norristown." The only portion of it left, as it was then, is from the northern borough line to Roberts and Markley streets; also that part of Markley street from Roberts to Wood street, a part of Swede street from Wood to Elm street, a part of Swede street below Airy street, Main and DeKalb streets, when it passed over the new bridge (1830). The old road from the northern borough line to Roberts street has, this year, been widened to sixty-six feet. In going over this old road and re-plotting it on one of our up-to-date maps, I made several discoveries. The first one was, that it was not a straight line from Wood street to Elm, as is our present Swede street, but there was a decided angle at or near Beach street; that it continued south of Elm street on a straight line from a point north of Beach street to a point just east of the south side of Jacoby street, which would be over a hundred feet from the present west side of Swede street; then in a southerly direction, but not parallel to Swede street to Airy and Swede streets, the west line cutting the Airy street line nineteen feet from the present Swede street, this distance being given on the old map. The old State road continued on down to Egypt street, east to DeKalb street, thence south and over the new bridge (1834), over the Schuylkill river, etc. Neither the description nor the plan show the width of that old road. It scaled thirty-three feet, which was the normal width; viz.: two rods. Then Swede street was opened as it is today, but known as The State road—not Swede street. And by this opening the old Swedes Ford road, from Elm to Airy streets, was va-

cated, as the opening order so states. I have since been told by several attorneys that in going over old deeds they could not make the distances reach the present east side Swede street, but when I published a description of this old Swedes Ford road and State road, they made a new effort, and their charts checked up fairly well.

From a point at, or near, the intersection of Swede street and Beach street, there was another old road known as the Paper Mill road; it followed, practically, the lines of Beach street, passing the three old houses near the Stony creek, then by ford over the creek, where there was also a foot-log; then up the west bank of the Stony creek, passing, in the early days, several old stone cotton mills and stone houses, to a point about two hundred feet north of the present wooden bridge leading over into Elmwood Park, to the north side of a small stream where the old paper mill was located. This old paper mill, prior to 1854, was known as Stanbridge's cotton mill; it was destroyed by fire in 1854, after which, when rebuilt, it was the paper mill. Thence along this stream, passing the old stone houses now in a gully at Stanbridge and Steriger streets, to a point near the residence of the steward of the Hospital for the Insane; thence in a northeasterly direction to Scheetz's mill, passing it, then over to and parallel with the present entrance into the Norris City Cemetery, to Swede street, or Swedes Ford road. From the steward's residence, this old road ran north-west, and joined the present road leading to the White Hall road.

An incident in my boyhood recalls an old lane leading from the old Swedes Ford road into the old Scott farm, a hundred feet or more north of Wood street, and on down to the Stony creek. It was over this old lane that farmer Jacquette passed to his death, when he was shot by the brother of the man who owned the tract on the west side of the creek, on to which Jacquette's cows had strayed. Jacquette had gone over after the cows, when he was shot down in cold blood, and died the next day.





Another more pleasing incident occurred at the point where Scott lane entered Swedes Ford road, north of Wood street. This point was away out in the country, when I was a boy. The incident referred to was, that I went out there, with other boys, early in the morning, and sat on the fence waiting for "Porgy O'Brien's" Circus to come in with his one elephant, one lion, one tiger, one ring, and, in fact, one of everything. As a coincidence, this "show" was held on the lot on which my father later built a house (at Swede and Powell streets). The tent blew over; father had to cut his way out, and he saved me from the one ring, one elephant, etc., etc.

Green Alley road begins at a point somewhere between Penn and Airy streets, on Green street. There was an old road following the west bank of Saw-Mill Run, to Brown's mill, at the foot of Brown street, passing the former residence of the late Norman Egbert; also the old Steinmetz property, now occupied by John Bickings, to the borough line. From Green and Airy streets to Elm street, this old road has been vacated. All traffic in a northeasterly direction passed over the old road, which is now supplanted by DeKalb street and Arch street. From Brown street to the Steinmetz property, it is also vacated. At a point close to the intersection of this Old Green Alley road and Basin street, Kersey road started, and ran eastwardly to Sandy street, at the north end of Cook's woods. Over this old road passed many teams delivering cotton and wool to the old "Blue Mills," now owned by the Schatchards. This old road has been vacated for many years, but in its stead we have Basin street, opened practically on the same lines as the old Kersey road. But from Treemount avenue to Sandy street it would be hard to find any semblance of a road today; it is so overgrown with underbrush that the terminus of Basin street seems to be at New Hope street, except for a narrow lane that ascends the steep hill, passing the Mellor residence, from Tremount avenue to New Hope street. From New Hope street to Sandy street, this old road is absolutely lost, where it passed through Cook's woods. I have made several examinations with the aid of an old map of the

Kersey road, and another of Basin street. If Basin street was ever opened through Cook's woods, there is now no evidence of it.

It may be of interest to note here, that early in the history of Norristown, running water in the old town was desired, as the old pumps were found inadequate for the growing community, and the only source of supply, by gravity, was the splendid spring on the Miles Kersey property, now the Mellor property. Surveys were made, and the air line distance from the spring to the "high ground near the Episcopal church on Airy street" was measured and levelled; the fall, or gravity, ascertained, and this was reported to Borough Council. Then a committee was appointed to obtain the cost of constructing the pipe line and the reservoir, and laying pipes on certain streets. There were several reports, but nothing was done. Several objected that "the spring may go dry," but I have never heard of its ever having gone dry.

One part of the Green Alley road is still in use, from Elm street north to Brown street. In reference to the pipe line, the proposed reservoir would have been on the site of the jail, which reminds me of another old road, close to the jail—I refer to Morris street. In going over some old papers and maps from I. P. Knipe, Esq., I ran across this old map, on which is shown Morris street, extending northwardly from Airy street, and known, for years, as Prison alley. This old street was intersected by an alley ten feet wide, running from the Episcopal Cemetery across to DeKalb street, and was at the north end of the old prison wall. Morris street was named for a woman who, at one time, owned all the land east of the Episcopal church, to the Academy property, now DeKalb street.

While on the subject of roads and streets, I would like to call your attention to our "twin streets": for instance, Ford street, from the river to the point in the cut just north of Main street; then it is High street to its terminus. Then there is Franklin avenue, and Haws avenue, or Cottage avenue; Spruce street, east of Powell; Beach street, west of Powell; James street, west of Markley; Basin

street, east of Markley. From Markley street, at the present time, we have the "Old Paper Mill road," Beach street and the Boulevard, all forming the entrance to Elmwood Park. Green street, below Main street, is of the same width, twenty-four feet, as was laid out by William Moore Smith, in 1784, as is also Cherry street south of Lafayette street. Lafayette street was formerly known as Briar alley, twenty-four feet wide; it was changed, in 1834, as was also Airy street, first known as Jail lane. I might add that the present system of house-numbering was subsequent to 1860.

As to the *names* of our streets, I am unable to find the origin of all of them, but from our records I have given you Egypt street. And the names given to other streets are derived from the following sources:

Jackson street, from General Andrew Jackson.

Washington street, from General George Washington.

Lafayette street, from the Marquis de Lafayette.

Penn street, from the Proprietor, William Penn.

Airy street was originally Jail lane, but it is presumed that from its general altitude they called it Airy, either in 1784 or 1812.

Marshall street, from Chief Justice John Marshall.

Chestnut and Oak streets, from forest trees.

Jacoby street, from William Jacoby, who owned much of the land through which it was opened.

Elm street (I am informed) was named for a giant elm that stood at the intersection of Elm street and Swedes Ford road, in 1812.

Greene street, from General Nathaniel Greene.

DeKalb street, from the Baron DeKalb.

Swede street, from the Old Swedes road.

Cherry street, from a fruit tree.

Barbadoes street, from the West India Islands of that name; it was also the name of the largest island in the river, opposite Norristown.

Markley street, from John Markley, who owned much of the land along Stony creek.

Astor street (I have been unable to learn the source of its name).

Chain street, from John Chain, who resided in the large house on Egypt street, just west of George street.

George street (I have not learned the source of its name).

Kohn street, for Gabriel Kohn, a large land-owner.

Haws (or Haas) avenue, for the family of Haas, not Haws.

Stanbridge street, for the owner of a mill on Stony creek, located near the junction of the east and north branches of Stony creek. Mr. Stanbridge did build a dam just north of Elmwood park. This dam was washed away, about 1870.

Noble street (source unknown).

Buttonwood street, for a tree.

Hamilton street, for Alexander Hamilton, first Treasurer of the United States.

Selma street,¹ evidently a woman's name.

Forest avenue, because it was all forest there, in 1853.

Old Cemetery lane's name was changed by Town Council to Hartranft avenue.

James street, from a farmer of that name.

Sterigere street, named for John B. Sterigere, a prominent lawyer here.

Corson street, named for Lawrence E. Corson.

Wood street, so-called for the family of that name, prominent here.

Fornance street, for the family of that name, among whom Joseph Fornance was a member of Congress, and his

¹ "Selma" was the name of the home of General Andrew Porter, at west end of Norristown.—Ed.

son Joseph a president and an honored member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

Knox street, for the distinguished family of that name residing here, descendants of General Knox, Secretary of War.²

Freedley street, for John and Jacob Freedley, extensive land-owners at the time the borough was enlarged, in 1853. One was the progenitor of Henry Freedley, Esq., and of Mrs. John J. Corson.

Roberts street, named for Isaac Roberts.

Logan street, named for Albanus C. Logan, who owned land just north of the 1853 line.

Ellis street, for a family of that name.

Powell street, from the owner of much of the land through which it passed (but on information from a member of that family, the name is Welsh and should be spelled POWEL—with one "l").

Willow street, named for a familiar tree.

Brown street, from the owner of Brown's mill.

Arch street (not known from what source³).

Walnut street, named for a tree.

High street was named for the grandfather of Samuel High, Esq., whose name was also Samuel High.

Violet street, so called for a flower, probably.

New Hope street, possibly in honor of New Hope, in Bucks county, Pa., which street eventually leads into Swedes Ford road. From Ford street east, and Main street, all of the streets laid out in 1853, with the exception of Washington street, have been vacated by Borough Council.

² Henry Knox. Born at Boston, July 25, 1750; died at Thomaston, Maine, October 25, 1806. An American general, distinguished as an artillery general in the Revolution: secretary of war, 1785-95. (The Century Cyclopaedia of Names.)

³ It may have been from the arch that spanned Saw-Mill run.—Ed.

Treemount avenue, on old maps, is spelled "Tremont", and it is unquestionably named for the old Seminary which was started in 1844, nine years before the borough was extended; it has always been "Treemount" to the students of that old seminary.

There is no action necessary by Borough Council, or by any other legislative body, to compel people to call Main street, "Egypt." That is its given name. All old maps and records give it that name. There are many street markers of stone built into old buildings on which will be found Egypt street. Every village has its "Main" street, and I fully appreciate the fact that it should be called "Egypt," but who can compel people to use that word? Franklin street, in the east end of town, was called Ralston street; there was a station of that name on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and at one time Council took up the question of changing its name permanently, because the same name had been given to Franklin avenue, in the west end. These two streets of the same name often cause confusion to strangers.

Many people today speak of Markley street, north of Wood street, as Swede street, for the reason that it was known as the Swedes Ford road, and for many years it was the continuation of our present Swede street, which really stops at Wood street. I have a long letter from Dr. Burke, who resided on Swede street, midway between Chestnut and Oak streets, in which he states that he found the foundations of an old blacksmith shop in his yard. This old shop stood on one side of an old road, or lane, running from a point near Oak street, diagonally down and over the hill, passing the old shop, to the rear of the brewery along Stony creek, thence on down to the grist mill at Egypt street. I can find no record, or map, showing such a road, but I have been informed that before the construction of the dam at the foot of Swede street, there was a ford across the river, passing over the two islands to the Bridgeport side; that this old road was shut off many years ago, but the southern end of it is still in existence from 4th street south toward Paoli, along the base of Eastburn

Hill, and parallels the Chester Valley Railroad for some distance. It is also stated that this was the real Swedes Ford, at which Washington crossed on his way to Valley Forge, in December, 1777.

The sketch map mentioned in the introduction is presented to show you more clearly the location of the old roads herein described.

I might add that the ford on the Schuylkill, at or near the boundary line of the two cemeteries, led to the south side of the river, over the island. That road is still in existence on the south shore. Practically all of the information given above is authentic history, but of the river road it is traditional, and I have given it to you for what is worth. Other than that portion from Red Rock, which was located at the foot of Buttonwood street, on down to Stony creek, with Hancock's lane, I firmly believe all, as given above, to be correct, as it was from my father, and when he told the story of the ox team, he had no motive in telling an untruth.

Report of Annalist For 1922*

By CLARA A. BECK

The anniversary exercises of the French Alliance were held in the Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge, at which time M. Jules Jusserand, Ambassador of the Republic of France, was invested with the insignia of the Valley Forge Historical Society, and made a Perpetual Patron thereof. M. Jusserand, however, was unable to be present, but was represented by M. Maurice Poillard, French Consul at Philadelphia.

Miss Ruth Montague, of Norristown, was awarded the Stokowski Medal, and recommended for membership in the Philadelphia Orchestra, as the result of a singing contest in that city.

It has been estimated that of the 30,000 persons who were present at the laying of the cornerstone of St. Mary's Home, at Lansdale, 2200 were from St. Patrick's parish, at Norristown. Lansdale, by the way, celebrated its sesqui-centennial on the 19th of August.

In October, the Historical Society of Montgomery county conducted its annual outing to the Schwenkfelder Historical Museum and Library, at Pennsburg, Pa.

An unusual feature in religious worship in one of our local pulpits was the conducting of the services at the First Methodist Church, by Mrs. Sarah T. Hoffman, in the absence of the pastor, her husband, Rev. C. T. Hoffman.

The large stables belonging to Ivins C. Walker, on East Main street, were destroyed by fire on August 6th. Loss estimated at \$55,000. Another fire, occurring on October 30th, destroyed the East-End Junk Warehouse, belonging to Mr. Tuilo. Loss about \$30,000.

*Read before the Society, April 29, 1922.

The Tremount Alumni Association held its Ninth Annual Reunion early in October.

Mr. Roy A. Hatfield has succeeded C. Townley Larzelere, Esq., as president of the Norristown Operatic Society.

Prof. Harry Sykes, choir-master of Trinity Lutheran Church, has accepted the invitation to be the musical director at Trinity Church, Lancaster, Pa., and on November 10th was the guest of honor at a testimonial dinner tendered him at City Hall, Norristown.

Borough Council has been notified to vacate the old Wyoming Mills, at the foot of Swede street, which have housed the electric power plant from which the borough lights all streets, City Hall, the Public Square and Elmwood Park—about 1200 lights in all.

Miss Frances M. Fox has resigned her position with the Historical Society and intends to take up her residence in Doylestown, Pa.

The local banks and trust companies have distributed, under the Christmas Saving Fund accounts, approximately \$428,000, this season.

Miss Emily Shainline, of Main street, entertained the Norristown newsboys with a "Christmas Party."

The Good Roads Association of this county celebrated the opening of the new State road between the borough line and the William Penn Inn, Gwynedd, by a dinner, and addresses by Hon. John Faber Miller, Theodore Lane Bean, Esq., and William Buckland, at the Fire Hall, Centre Square, December 9th. Incidentally Centre Square Grange received first prize for their exhibit at the Food Show, at City Hall.

"Erdenheim" and John George Hocker*

By SAMUEL YEAKLE

In presenting this paper, I have endeavored to avoid repeating, as much as possible, matters already published in connection with "Erdenheim," or what is known concerning John George Hocker, who owned and occupied the farm, called by that name prior to the Revolution, and until the time of his death in 1820. This farm, or tract of land, is situated in Whitemarsh and Springfield townships, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and east of and along the famed Wissahickon creek.

In the first half of the 18th century, up to the time of the American Revolution, there was a large influx of immigrant population from Europe into the Province of Pennsylvania, owing to the mild and peaceful government of that province under William Penn; and a very large number of German and Dutch immigrants arrived during that time, and located within the bounds of Pennsylvania, from the Delaware to the Susquehanna rivers, and even west of the Susquehanna.

The character of these Dutch and German immigrants was of that sturdy industrious type that went to make good and useful citizens, as was afterward demonstrated, although the authorities of the State at one time seemed to fear the influence of this class of people upon the welfare of the Commonwealth. ("Watson's Annals.")

Among the immigrants who arrived during the years mentioned, was John George Hocker, the subject of this sketch.

*Read before the Society, April 29, 1922.

William A. Yeakle, in the first volume of "Sketches" issued by the Historical Society of Montgomery County, tells mostly of what is known of the life and history of this early immigrant. He came from Wuerttemberg, Germany, landing in Pennsylvania, September 16, 1751 (Rupp's Collection). He went to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where some of the same name located. An immigrant, Hans Adam Hocker, who arrived in 1749 (Rupp's Collection), whose descendants are numerous in Lancaster and adjoining counties, was undoubtedly a relative—perhaps a brother to John George, although I have no evidence of this, except that they arrived nearly the same time, and both went to Lancaster county.

John George Hocker took the oath of allegiance to Great Britain on September 24, 1760, in Cocalico township, then Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. I have this document in my possession, a much treasured paper. I have also an affidavit of citizenship to the State of Pennsylvania, taken before Zebulon Potts, Esq., in Philadelphia, on May 27, 1778. I have also an old German Bible, the property of this man, on the first cover of which, in the German language, is a family record mentioning that to John George Hocker and Margaretta, his wife, were born two sons, "John George" and "Johannes," who later, I think, were known as George and John. There is no further record in this book of the births of any children, although there were four other sons and two daughters. I have also another old relic of John George's, a silver seal ring with a figure of three stars and boot and spur, and the letters "I" or "J," "G," "H," and some other old papers that I will refer to later.

John George Hocker was about seventeen years of age when he came to Pennsylvania. After living some time in Lancaster county he is supposed to have married there. (William A. Yeakle History.) His wife's name was Margaretta (not sure of last name). He came east to what was then Philadelphia county, and bought about two hundred acres of land, which he named "Erdenheim," a German word meaning "Earthly Home," or "Home on Earth"—a very beautiful name; so much so, that the people living in

the vicinity of what has been long known as "Wheel Pump" (the name of the old hotel at the place) adopted this name for their village and its post office.

Dr. Naaman Keyser, of Germantown, a careful investigator in old family records, thinks John George may have been married twice, and that one of his wives was named Elizabeth. I find no evidence, however, of this, as his wife Margaretta is mentioned when he buys "Erdenheim," and also in the old Bible above-mentioned; also, I find the name of Margaret, his wife, on the old tombstone in the churchyard of old St. Michael's Church, Germantown. George Hocker and Margaret, his wife, were members of this church, and the record of their deaths on the tombstones in this church-yard is as follows: "George Hocker died Oct. 4, 1820, aged 87 years and six months." "Margaret, wife of George Hocker, died July 5, 1816, aged 77 years"—their deaths being only four years apart.

The children of George and Margaret Hocker were George, Martin, John, Adam, Jacob, Christopher and two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. I have not tried to trace the descendants of these sons and daughters, except partially. Adam, a son, married and moved to Virginia, where he had quite a family. Dr. Keyser, above-mentioned, I think, is connected with this line, and is working on the history of his family. It is believed one of the descendants named Hocker is conducting a large female college in Kentucky.¹

John, another son of John George, married, according to Edward Matthews, Elizabeth, a daughter of Christopher Mason. I think John afterward lived in Philadelphia. This is a family tradition. Of George, another son, I do not have any history except that I believe that this is the one mentioned; I recently saw, in a copy of the "Norristown Herald," an item, saying that, one hundred years ago, January 30, 1822, George Hocker, of Springfield township,

¹ J. M. Hocker has a clipping from the hands of Christopher Hocker, of Barren Hill, that tells of their 65th wedding anniversary on October 24, 1909. (Married October 24, 1844.)

died. Of the son Jacob, I have not found anything, of his later history. Of the son Christopher, I have the following: He married first, in Montgomery county. He was of a rather headstrong disposition; he left his wife here in Montgomery county and went to Ohio, lived and married there a second time, and one of his sons, George, returned to Whitemarsh, Montgomery county, Pa. He was well known here, and had ten children; one son, Christopher, is still living, and is the assessor of Whitemarsh township, and is the only one of this line of the name of Hocker in this section. His home is in Barren Hill, and he is the source of this information.

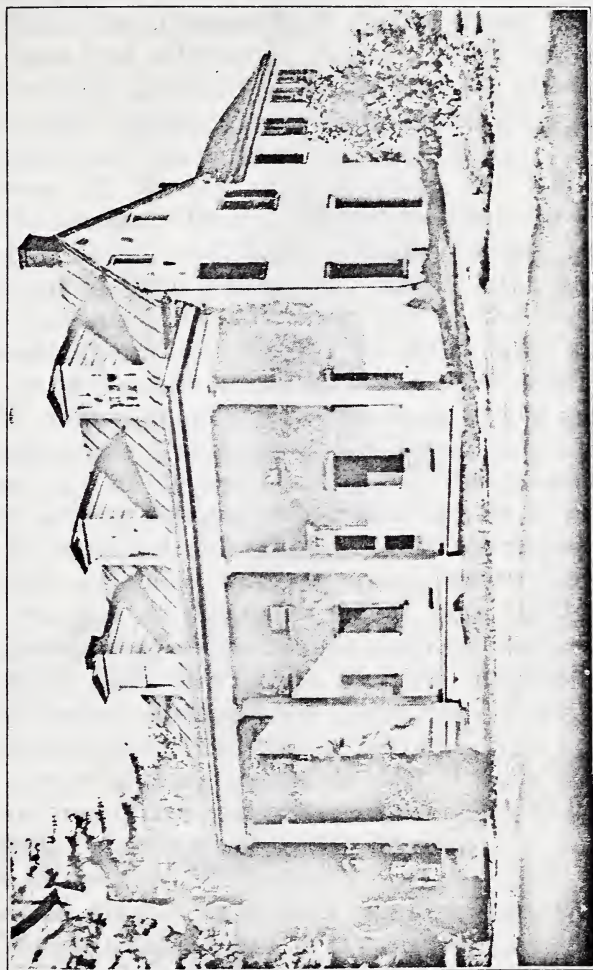
Rev. M. Luther Hocker, pastor of the Whitemarsh Lutheran Church, is a descendant of Adam Hocker, who came to Pennsylvania and located in Lancaster county in 1749, as mentioned in William A. Yeakle's History of Whitemarsh. One of the daughters, Margaret, of John George Hocker, married William Cress, whose son, George, and daughter, Margaret, I remember to have seen. The other daughter of John George Hocker, Elizabeth, married General Henry Scheetz, whose military and civil record has become a part of the history of Montgomery county; and their descendants are quite numerous in the county.

Another son, Martin, the great grandfather of the writer of this paper, married Ann, daughter of Christopher Mason, who owned and lived on the farm in Whitemarsh, and sold it, in 1803, to his son-in-law, Martin Hocker; one hundred and six acres for two thousand pounds, with the house, built by Ann and Martin in 1804, the date stone being still in the wall. The house is still standing in a good state of preservation, though somewhat modernized, but now owned by the Philadelphia Cricket Club, who bought the farm from the Yeakle Estate two years ago. The house will be used as a club-house. Martin Hocker, son of John George, died in 1830, from a contagious disease, possibly small-pox, having gone on a visit to his relatives in Lancaster or Lebanon county, where he died. The place of burial I have not yet been able to locate. His will was probated November, 1830. His wife Ann died October 4, 1826 (and was buried

in St. Michael's grave-yard, Germantown) at the age of fifty-eight years, seven months. George died at the age of fourteen years, on July 31, 1808, and was buried in the same cemetery. By will, the farm of Martin Hocker descended to his son, John, my grandfather.

The old house, the home of John George Hocker, is still standing at "Erdenheim," on what is now the property of George D. Widener; it is a quaint old building, plastered, with high columns in front reaching to the roof, and has an ancient appearance. A wing to the house appears to have been built at a later date. Mr. Edward W. Hocker, of the "Independent Gazette," Germantown, who does not claim descent from these ancestors, but perhaps may have some family connection, recently took a photograph of the old mansion, and very kindly gave me a picture, which I, of course, appreciate very highly.

John George Hocker, of "Erdenheim," became an influential man in the local community. He was one of the last surviving trustees of the old cemetery on the farm adjoining "Erdenheim," which deed of trust I have in my possession, dated August 11, 1780, and which I will describe further on. He was a member of St. Michael's Church, above-mentioned, and, as I heard from my aunt, who was a great-granddaughter of John George, he frequently walked to church a distance of five or six miles. As stated above, John George Hocker died in the year 1820. According to W. A. Yeakle's records, the farm was next owned for a short time by William Cress, a son-in-law. According to Edward Matthews' records, Martin Hocker, after the death of his father, as administrator or executor, sold the farm ("Erdenheim") to Caspar Schlotter, of Upper Dublin, for \$15,568, in 1823. In 1830, Schlotter sold to Henry Scheetz, son-in-law, 155 acres, who sold it to his son, Jacob Scheetz, for \$14,000; he owned it until 1842; Scheetz then sold to William Longstreth for \$23,500, who, in turn, sold it in 1855, to George Bright for \$35,500. In 1862, the property was bought by Aristides Welch, who held it as a stock farm for breeding running horses, and raised some of the best blooded horses in the country at that time. He owned the



"ERDENHEIM"

famous stallion Leamington, also the famous old trotting mare, Flora Temple. Both of these horses were buried by Mr. Welch in the lawn near the old house, where stones mark their graves. It was during the occupancy of this farm by Mr. Welch that General U. S. Grant, whose 100th birthday we have just celebrated, paid a visit to "Erdenheim," and was royally entertained by his host for three days, in the year 1868, General Grant being also a lover of horses. This information I have from Mr. Louis Kittson, a son of a later owner of "Erdenheim," Norman W. Kittson, who bought the property from A. Welch in 1882 for \$125,000, in all, 246 acres, additional acreage having previously been bought by Mr. Welch. Mr. Kittson later bought the Lewis A. Lukens farm, adjoining, but on the west side of the Wissahickon creek, making the entire tract about 400 acres of as fertile land as can be found anywhere. In 1896, Robert N. Carson bought the entire farm of 400 acres from the Kittson estate. The heirs of Mr. Carson sold the same a few years ago to George D. Widener, the present owner.

I will refer in this paper to what may be of interest to those who care for old things of this character. On the Lukens farm adjoining, as I said, and of which John George Hocker was one of the last trustees, was, until recently, an old grave-yard, which is now entirely obliterated, the walls having been torn down, and the tombstones taken away and broken. This ruthless destruction of this old landmark occurred about the time, or perhaps—just before, the present owner got possession. In fact, I have knowledge that it was one of the conditions under which the property was bought. This old graveyard is referred to in William A. Yeakle's History of Whitemarsh. About 1885, a list of those whose graves were then marked with tombstones may be found in this article, in the first volume of the publications of the Historical Society of Montgomery County. The inscriptions on about twenty-five tombstones erected in memory of those buried there were quite distinct at that time. There were evidences of many other graves, unmarked. I remember, when a boy, attending the old eight-square Williams school, that this old burying-ground was

in a fair condition, with a good wall, covered, and with a gate at the entrance, but since then the place seemed to have been neglected, and it is to be regretted that this old land-mark is gone; as many of us have a sacred regard for such old-time places, particularly old burial-places. The original deed of trust was given by Edward Farmar to Henry Bartleson and Peter Knight, trustees, on September 2, 1746, and on August 2, 1786, a Declaration of Trust was made by Peter Knight, merchant, of Philadelphia, surviving trustee, to the following trustees: George Hocker, Nicholas Kline, Patrick Menan, Peter Bartleson and Bartle Bartleson. Patrick Menan and Bartle Bartleson were buried in the old grave-yard above-mentioned. In this grave-yard, I remember well, was an old tombstone erected to the memory of John Nichols Knight, and it was an elaborate stone, with the inscription "In memory of John Nichols Knight, died December 29, 1722, aged 40 years 10 months." This stone, with the others, was evidently removed and broken. I remember that on this stone was also inscribed the Scripture passage from Colossians, chapter 3, verses 3 to 10. I thought this account of the old burying-ground would be interesting to all who care for old-time things. From an old paper in my possession, I find Bartle Bartleson bequeathed twenty pounds to this old cemetery. Elizabeth Bartleson, a daughter of Bartle Bartleson, gave by will ten pounds, both bequests to be used for repairs to the cemetery. Another fact I would refer to is that a part of this "Erdenheim" property is now occupied by Carson College. Robert N. Carson, who died in 1907, by will, dated 1903, left \$1,000,000 to found a school for orphan girls, six to ten years of age; that is, for those having neither parent living; also, one hundred acres of land to erect buildings for those and establish this school, which was a very praiseworthy and commendable object. This college has been in active operation for several years, and at present there are about eighty girls in the school, and, as provided for in the will of Mr. Carson, are under the control of a Board of Trustees; the Dean of the College is Miss Elsa Uhlan, who has served in that capacity since its organization—a very

capable and energetic lady—and the College has prospered under her management.

The Whitemarsh Hunt Club has also been located, for a number of years past, on this property.

The recent proposed extension of Fairmount Park and drives passes through, or over, this "Erdenheim" property. How or when this proposed extension will be consummated is uncertain, but land has been bought as far as Militia Hill, in Whitemarsh township, having in view its setting apart, by the State of Pennsylvania, as historic ground, Militia and Camp Hills, both having been occupied by General Washington's army after the Battle of Germantown, in the fall of 1777, and until the army moved to Valley Forge, in December of the same year.

Some of these accounts of past doings are perhaps a digression from the first intention of the writer, but we trust they may not be uninteresting to those who are patient enough to listen to the recital of events as given above.

The Lutheran Missions and Ministry of the Two Stoevers*

By S. GORDON SMYTH

It has been frequently said that Lutheranism, in this country, had its beginnings in what is now Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and it was here that her first missionaries, almost immediately upon landing upon these shores, sought the outlying settlements in the western part of the country, largely composed of Germans, and there began their Christianizing influences in organizing congregations and preparing the way for the distinguished ministry that was soon to follow, among whom, and about the first in prominence, was the Rev. Henry Melchoir Mühlenberg, one who also, in firmly establishing that body, has long been recognized as the founder of the Lutheran church in America.

Among the denominational divisions that preceded the Lutherans in this particular field were those of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospels, which was made up mainly from the adherents of the Church of England; those of the Calvinistic tendencies were represented by the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, and members of the Reformed German church (who claim to be Hollanders, and Swiss), the Mennonists of like nationalities, and the Quakers—a sect which embraced the principal racial elements of the British kingdom, who were the most formidable of all in point of numbers and position, holding their meetings in widely separated settlements established within this province.

About 1730, the borderland of this province, between the Indian ranges and the white outposts, extended along

*Read before the Society, November 18, 1922.



SAMUEL GORDON SMYTH
President of the Society, 1921-1923

the foothills of the Blue Ridge from the Susquehanna to the forks of the Delaware, where the Sussex range intersected, and concealed the tribesmen of the Lenni-Lenape in its forested impenetrability. Southward of the Delaware, below the Oley Hills, and along the Manatawney and the headwaters of its neighboring streams in the water-shed of the Schuylkill, there lay a beautiful, rolling region, rich in agricultural promise, and of exceeding value in mineral wealth. Of this section, some 22,000 acres had been granted originally by William Penn to Francis Daniel Pastorius, but by subsequent sale had passed into the possession, first, of Daniel and Justus Falckner, then of John Henry Sproegel; and from him, by successive later transfers, and divisions into smaller parcels, to the possession of sundry persons, as that part of the country became more densely settled.

Very early in the history of this section it was found that its mineral resources were of great value and easily accessible—that iron, copper, magnesite and other deposits abounded in several localities. These were exploited extensively, principally among the inducements held out by the Frankfort Company and its successors in their colonizing enterprises, or, by the agents of the Proprietary while busy abroad amidst the restless refugees in the Rhinish provinces and Palatinate. Great numbers were thus allured and made the more eager to emigrate, aside from considerations of security in their desire to escape from the bigotted religious persecutions of Europe. In addition to the mass of Germans, Swiss and Dutch,¹ there were many English who came over and took up land along the upper Schuylkill and its adjacent valleys. The European element colonized in families, or in community groups, especially where minerals were being sought.

Thomas Rutter, an Englishman, appears to have been the first to capitalize and profit by the mineral prospects. He secured large quantities of land on the Manatawney,

¹ The Dutch element in the settlement of Pennsylvania was unimportant in numbers, and was generally merged with the German immigration, which passed, mostly, through the ports of Holland.—Ed.

and started operations by erecting furnaces and forges near the ore-pits along the creek. Near the same time, Samuel Nutt, another English settler, became similarly engaged at Coventry and on French Creek, on the west side of the Schuylkill, in Chester county, and very nearly opposite the mouth of the Manatawney. Both industries prospered, and later their interests were merged, but with the introduction of John Potts into the firm at a subsequent period, the latter family practically became the founders of that great iron industry with which the Potts, for generations past, have been intimately associated.

In the course of a few years, as the furnaces multiplied, many of the settlers were employed, but it was found necessary, we are told, that in many instances skilled mechanics be imported from Germany to supply deficiencies in that class of labor here. As a consequence of these importations, the product was greatly improved, plants were enlarged and a wider market was provided, so that the material was exported. Many of these emigrants were well educated people, of a high moral character, thrifty and industrious, and usually constituents of the Lutheran church in their native land, but on coming here, unfortunately, found no such regular religious establishment as that to which they had been accustomed at home. A condition that was not relieved until a later period, so that a few passed into the Reformed Dutch church, while others affiliated with the Episcopalians "who worked in harmony with the Lutherans," or, joined with the Mennonists, but the larger number, by far, languished in spiritual impoverishment, unchurched, till missionaries of their own faith began to appear among them, prior to 1730.

In regard to religious affiliations, it was said that "It was easy to pass from one church to another, and throughout the 18th century Lutheranism was looked upon as closely allied to the Church of England, and they worked in harmony, while in a similar manner the Reformed Church was classed with the Presbyterians, because the shade of difference between the principles of the German Reformed Church and those of the Presbyterians of the

United States were scarcely discernible and unimportant." (See Kuhns, 162-3.) There were, about that time, says another writer, "scarcely any ministers, while the church members numbered many thousands." Such were the religious conditions among the Lutherans in this county for at least two decades prior to the organization and establishment of its first church, at Falckner's Swamp, in 1730.

Falckner's Swamp took its name from Daniel Falckner, a member of the Frankfort Company, and a brother of Rev. Justus Falckner, who was one of the earliest of the Lutherans from the mother church to visit and preach in this region, the date being about 1703. (See Bean, 993.) The church established after this date is now known as the New Hanover Lutheran Church, and was organized in 1719 in a movement which was initiated by John Henry Sproegel, himself a Lutheran, who gave 50 acres of land upon which the present church, built in 1721, now stands, conditioned upon "the erection of a church, schoolhouse and graveyard." This gift was surveyed by Heinrich Pannepacker, for the New Hanover congregation at Falckner's Swamp, in 1719.

With the development of the history of this church, I am not further concerned, except to state that while looking over its recently published annals, my attention was attracted to a statement in the narrative relating to one of its former pastors—in fact, one of its very earliest, the Rev. John Casper Stoever, Jr., and to his father of the same name, and the conjecture as to what became of the latter. We have ample authority for the date and circumstances regarding the arrival of the father and the son in this country, but for the first few years thereafter there is little known, apparently, but much speculation among church historians concerning the younger man's ministry among us. However, it was he who was the immediate predecessor of, and did more than any other to prepare the way for, the permanent work of the greatly distinguished Rev. Henry Melchoir Mühlenthal. Our late esteemed colleague, Henry S. Dotterer, says, (see "Perkiomen Region," III, 45.) "Long before Mühlenthal came to

America, a faithful Lutheran minister went about among the settlers in our region, performing those offices to which they were accustomed in their native land, but of which they were deprived in the wilds of Pennsylvania; preaching to them, solemnizing marriages, baptizing their children, and the burial of the dead. His name was John Casper Stoever. He was a regular minister of his faith," etc. In his history of the New Hanover Church, to which I am indebted for many facts herein, its compiler states that "of all the pioneers, Rev. John Casper Stoever apparently devoted more care in the preparation and instalments of protocols, or church records, than any one else." To which he might have added—and of drawing the Lutherans together, and organizing congregations in this county and many others far distant.

Among the Lutheran clergy, the story of the young missionary's work may be familiar enough, but to the average layman of whatever persuasion, it will be of interest to know what Stoever accomplished, especially in this county, both in the character of his labors and in the large number of churches whose origin is credited to him, while the province was yet emerging from its primitive conditions.

A brief autobiography of the "student" missionary, found in his records (Records of Rev. John Casper Stoever; Baptismal and Marriage; 1730-1779; p. 3), inform us that he was born December 21, 1707, in a place called Luedorff, in Solingen Amt, Duchy Berg, in Unter Pfaltz. His father was Johann Caspar Stoever, a native of Frankenburg in Hesse; and his mother, Gertraudt (family name not given), born in Amt Solingen.

The young man was carefully educated by some of the scholarly ecclesiastics of the district, under his father's supervision, and prepared for the ministry. When about 21 years of age, he accompanied his father to this country from Europe, and arrived here in 1728. He also states that he preached on the way over, and on his journeyings here, continued to preach. However, he was not ordained until April 8, 1733, by Rev. John Christian Schultze, at which time, also, he was married to Maria Christina Merckling.

His wife was born May 14, 1715, in Chur Pfaltz, and was the daughter of Christian Merckling and his wife Catarina, nee Brucher. Rev. John Casper Stoever, Jr., had 11 children.

As to the official record concerning their arrival in this country, we have this information: "September 11, 1728, a number of Palatines with their families, about 90 persons, exported in the ship *James Goodwill*, David Crocket, Master, from Rotterdam, late from Deal, whence she sailed June 15, among the passengers, Johann Casper Stoever, missionarie, and Johann Casper Stoever, S. S." (See Rupps "30,000 Names," pp. 37, 58; also, his "Religious Denominations in the United States"; also, Pa. Archives; etc.)

The church at New Hanover, where young Stoever began his ministry, in its early days was called "the Lutheran church at Falckner's Swamp," and is said to be the oldest Lutheran church in America. (See Bean, 993.) There was also in its locality another church, a German Reformed church, where Rev. John Philip Boehm preached in 1720. Rev. Justus Falckner is said to have preached to a congregation at the Swamp in 1703. He was followed by Rev. Gerhard Henckle, from about 1716. Later pastors included Rev. Samuel Hesselius, pastor of the Swedish church at Mollatton, now Douglasville, until 1732; then came Rev. John Christian Schultze who began to labor here in 1732, following his founding of the church at the Trappe, and was followed a year or two later by John Casper Stoever, whose last entry in the church book is in 1735. (See "Perkiomen Region," I. p. 63.) Schultze supplied this congregation for a short time, or until he was sent abroad to collect funds for the establishment of the Lutheran church in Pennsylvania. It was he who ordained Stoever, and it was probably in anticipation of his absence abroad that Stoever prepared to succeed him, and was ordained and married by Schultze on the eve of his departure for Europe.

In 1733, John Casper Stoever, Jr., took over the pastorate of the Trappe and Falckner's Swamp congregations. He served the latter, at least, until he was relieved by

Rev. Henry M. Mühlenberg, in 1742. At the time of Stoever's installation, there had been developed much opposition to him, because of what some of the congregation called his self-constituted preaching. It seems, however, that the force of his personality and activity in building up a strong constituency among his religious compatriots in the locality, and his growing reputation as a dominant character in secular as well as in sacred matters, made him master of the situation. (See Bean, 134, 993.)

It is not definitely known what young Stoever did between the time of his arrival in this country, with his father, in 1728, and the event of his ordination and marriage, in 1733, but it may be assumed that he was not idle, perhaps assisting in some of the lesser offices of the church, but still continuing his theological studies under his father's guidance, until the latter was called to a church in the Blue Mountain settlements of Virginia. In the intervening years, their installation to their respective charges, it is very evident from the "Record" that it was a busy period for both; settlements in Philadelphia, Chester and Lancaster counties were fast filling up with German and Swiss colonists, among whom they worked, and freely, in the functions of their office. At the time of their arrival there was much unrest in the settlements, due to British and French influences among the Indians.

In the spring of 1728 the Manatawney region was seriously disturbed by a band of Indians belonging to the Miami tribe, who, being instigated by the French, endeavored to stir up strife between the English and the Five Nations, and precipitate a war. Forays had been made along the Perkiomen, and the Manatawney country, where groups of Palatines from the province of New York had settled. Several persons are said to have been attacked and injured in New Hanover township, and some at Colebrookdale. The raids were serious enough to prompt Gov. Patrick Gordon to complain to the Council for severe measures. These troubles lasted until the fall, at which time they had been settled by treaty. It was probably due to this situation in the vicinity of Swamp Creek that the Stoevers went

down to the Susquehanna borders, where conditions were more peaceful.

About 1732, and for a few years immediately thereafter, there was a great migration of settlers from this section of Philadelphia county, when the virgin Northern Neck of Virginia was opened to settlement, which was made possible by the grants bestowed by the Governor and Council of Virginia, first to the Van Meter brothers, and by them assigned to Jost Hite, a former settler from the province of New York, and later of the Perkiomen region, but who was now to become the leader of this remarkable exodus. He was one of the petitioners to the Governor for protection when the inhabitants of Colebrookdale were forced to flee their homes in 1728. After taking over the Virginia land of about 40,000 acres, he succeeded in obtaining other grants from the government of the colony, until his patents reached over 100,000 acres, all of which was opened to colonization by Hite, under certain conditions. So, from 1732 until 1740, the then western part of Philadelphia county was literally drained of its inhabitants, lured South by the most attractive opportunities ever offered to "ground-floor" prospects in a modern real estate "boom."

It may be stated, parenthetically, that Jost Hite owned a large quantity of land along the Perkiomen, and that he operated a mill, and was engaged in other industries, in fact, was an early predecessor in title to the late home of ex-Governor Pennypacker, of Pennypacker Mills, now Schwenksville.

We are told (See Va. Mag. of Biog. XIII. 1906, pp. 1, 113, 231, 351, 374) that there was a colony of Germans at Massanutton, in Spottsylvania county, Virginia, brought there about 1714 to work the mines of Governor Spottswoode. They were men gathered together in the old country, and sent over by Baron Graffenreid. There has long been an interesting controversy over the origin and date of this remote village among the mountains of the Blue Ridge, but, at any rate, the records of Spottsylvania county, from 1714 to 1730, are very much enlivened by the original

activities of its early inhabitants. Furthermore, another writer, (See Schuricht's "German Element in Virginia," I. pp. 70, 74, 75, 76) says that the German colony on Robinson's river, which is a tributary of the Rapidan, and was then in Orange county, Virginia, west of the town of Madison, prospered under the kind government of Governor Spottswode. The colonists were laborious and pious; in 1735 they founded a congregation, with Rev. John Casper Stoever as parson, who also took charge of the church at Germanna, or, as it was called, Massanutton, which had been supplied by Rev. Gerhard Henckle until his acceptance of a call to the congregation near Yadkin river, North Carolina. The Rev. Stoever, Sr., himself says in a statement, that the Rev. Henckle spent his first year, 1716, in the church which Stoever was then serving, but that Henckle had later gone northward and settled in the New Hanover section of Pennsylvania. This shows that the Germanna church had existed as far back as claimed for it. (See New Hanover Records, p. 55.)

Before his call to Virginia, in 1735, John Casper Stoever, Sr., had been very active in what is now Berks, Lebanon and Montgomery counties; for many years he was pastor of the church at Lebanon. (See Rupp's "Relig. Denom. in U. S.") And in the "Pennsylvania German" (I. p. 33) we are informed that it was he who established the church at Warwick, in Chester county, in 1730, while at the time pastor at Conestoga; that he preached at the Hill church in Pike township, Lebanon county, in 1731; that the church on the Cocalico, in Lancaster county, was founded by him in 1733, and he was also connected in some such way with the Reid church which was founded near Stouchville, Lebanon county, by a group of settlers from Schoharie, N. Y., an edifice half logs, half castle, for protection against the Indians. (See also Kuhn, p. 163.)

In the course of his ministry he officiated in, if he did not actually found, the Lutheran churches at Oley, Colebrookdale, Hosensack, Melacthon, Manatawney, Coventry, Chestnut Hill, Moselem, Elizabeth Furnace (the scene of Baron Stiegel's operations), French creek and other places

where iron industries flourished. Often we find, his records state when he had been at Codorus, South Mountain, Northkill, Monocacy, Quittapahilla, Swatara, Tulpehocken and Conestoga, crossing over the Potomac to Shepherds-town, Opequon, and so on. While the elder Stoever was preaching in Virginia, the son frequently visited him, organizing and preaching on the way, back and forth, and thus became a familiar figure along the trails between this province and the southern colony. While in Virginia, the elder Stoever is credited with having organized congregations through the valley, those of Fredericksburg, Strasburg, Woodstock, little German Lutheran communities which had sprung up in the wake of the early overland trek from Pennsylvania, and which churches, about this period, were considered as "belonging to the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania." (See Schrucht, II, 7.) Stover, Sr., has been highly praised by the inhabitants of the valley as the originator and master of the "first authenticated school for white children in the old Dominion."

A portion of the Rev. Stoever, Sr.'s, career in Virginia was devoted to the protection of his constituents from the proselyting efforts of Count Zinzendorff, who attempted to convert the former's parishioners to the founding of a Moravian establishment, but the alertness and zeal of Stoever dispelled the attack.

In 1738-9, Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr., traveled to Germany in order to raise money for building a church, a parsonage with a school room, and a library. In the school, he proposed to teach religious reading, writing and arithmetic. His trip was successful, for he raised funds enough to build a church, and a considerable surplus remained, which was later invested in the purchase of 700 acres of land and a number of slaves. While Stoever was abroad, he met the clergyman who was, eventually, to succeed him, the Rev. Samuel Klug, said (by Wayland, p. 111.) to have been a Moravian minister. They met at Dantzic. After Klug had been called, in 1738, to labor in Virginia as a missionary. Stoever and Klug returned from Europe together, but on the voyage, and near the American shores, Stoever died. His

will, which is on file in the Register's office in Philadelphia, is an elaborate religious document, and very quaint.

On one of my trips to the Orange county court house in Virginia, some years ago, I came upon an entry in the court journal concerning the elder Stoever. Remembering that there had been a minister of that name in our county in the early days of its settlement, I made a copy of the instrument; viz., Rev. Casper Stoever, a son and heir-at-law of John Casper Stoever, deceased, presents Pennsylvania a certified copy of his father's will, and prays to be admitted as administrator in Orange county. He is admitted, and Henry Willis and Thomas Wood entered as securities, his mother, the widow Maria Magdalena, renouncing all rights under the will in his favor. Signed—James Pollard, Gent. Justice.

A contributor to the New Hanover publication writes that John Casper Stoever, Jr., was twice married, and had issue by both marriages. Rev. John C. Stoever, Jr., the son, says his mother's name was Gertrude, and the above mentioned contributor says the second wife's name was Maria Magdalena, which I also verify from my record. Stoever's estate was divided among five children—John C.; Jr., Elizabeth, Mary Magdalena and

Bishop Spangenberg, writing in 1748, states that he and Matthew Rentz crossed the Blue Ridge to go to the great forks of the Rappanhannocks; "beyond the mountains there is a prosperous settlement of Germans and English. Here there is a regular organized Lutheran congregation. Its pastor is Rev. Klug, and his predecessor was the father of our well known Stoever." (See History of New Hanover Lutheran Church, p. 840.)

After leaving the Swamp church, about 1742, it appears that the Rev. John Casper Stoever, Jr., became pastor of the Lutheran church at Stouchburg, Lebanon county, or Reith's Church, as it was then called. For the first few years while there, he became the storm centre of a controversy known in Lutheran annals as "the Tulpehocken Confusion," in which he shows his belligerent spirit by attacking the Moravians, who, posing as Lutherans, had become estab-

lished there, and forcibly assaulted their meeting-houses, and ejected their pastors. These militaristic methods incurred the displeasure of Mühlenberg, now a superintendent of the general Lutheran body, and resulted in keeping Stoever out of "The Ministerium of Pennsylvania." (See Croll's Address.)

Stoever was also charged with being world-wise, speculative, sordid and shrewd in secular matters, and it was related of him that he was selfishly interested in the laying out of town lots in Lebanon, and profiting by it; that when he died at Lebanon, May 13, 1779, (See Rupp, Relig. Den. in U. S.) he left three farms and a mill in the vicinity of Lebanon, but that, while living, he had been generous with churches, giving them free lots for their buildings, exacting, however, the payment of a red rose, annually, and as often thereafter as may be required. It is not for us to judge of these matters at this late day. Again, it is said of him that he vigorously opposed Conrad Beissel, the Ephrata leader of the Seventh-Day Baptists, who was proselyting among his communion, and had succeeded in alienating Conrad Weiser and other influential settlers of the neighborhood, before Stoever was able to counteract him.

Stoever's "Records of Baptisms and Marriages" show with what frequency he went back and forth, between his father's charge in Virginia and his own flock at "the Swamp," in Pennsylvania. Often digressing by the way, to call at the numerous settlements where Lutherans lived, so likewise did the father in coming to see the son and his family. Both administered spiritual refreshment to the little flocks which one or the other had much to do in organizing, so, at least, while the father lived, they traveled from place to place preaching, marrying and baptizing, and giving religious admonition and comfort to all. At each place the ordinances of the church were performed, mostly of baptism, when from one to a dozen persons were christened at a family gathering, or at some meeting-place for worship. Among the private families visited, where the rites of the church were performed, were Thomas Cresap's, at Oldtown, Md., Baron Fairfax's, in

Virginia; and at Opequon, on the South Branch of the Potomac, he baptized nearly all of the children of Jost Hite, and some of his grandchildren, on one occasion.

The "Records" are very confusing in their chronology, as to which of the two Stoevers performed the various functions mentioned. There is no indication otherwise than by the handwriting, which is so similar in character as to be indistinguishable, one from the other. This, of course, applies only to the period before 1739, when the father passed away. I have tried to analyze these records and form some idea of what each actually did in making them up, but was obliged to give it up.

Both the Stoevers, like other men of those days, performed an arduous and hazardous duty to civilization when they penetrated the wilderness to where the pioneers had made their clearings in the primeval forest, where they had impounded the waters for their mills, and trapped the furry denizen of the timber and stream. But all were adventurers in an unknown land; they were the forerunners of the civilization which was to follow and expand into that wonderful nation which we are proud to call ours. Our subjects were heroes of a faith, and sharers in the common dangers of the times, and perseveringly aroused the dormant religious instincts which had lain in fallow until the coming of these spiritual fathers. Such were the people and their condition when our two missionaries met, taught, encouraged and guided them, and among them founded the temples of peace and light; and of the sturdiness of their faith they also fought for that freedom which was founded for them by the genius and liberality of William Penn, who in his wisdom builded better than he knew.

Report of Annalist For 1923*

By CLARA A. BECK

POLITICAL

We have just helped to elect a new Governor for Pennsylvania, Hon. Gifford Pinchot, at a cost to Montgomery county of \$13,265.24 for the primaries. We are told that there are 100,160 registered voters in the county, of which there are 56,173 Republicans; 14,985 Democrats; 447 Socialists, and 136 Prohibitionists.

One of the oldest women voters in the county is Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis, of North Wales, aged 95 years, who cast her first vote for President Harding, and expects to vote for Pinchot. Another elderly voter is Mrs. Elizabeth Rorer, aged 90 years, and a Democrat. It is said that nearly 50 per cent of the women voters of Norristown are independent, politically, and the assessors' lists appear to support the claim.

REAL ESTATE

The Sabloskys have purchased the Sullivan Marble Yard for \$65,000; it also includes the Weber paint shop, and the Colonial Auto Supply store at 121 and 123 West Main street. The whole frontage on Main street is 140 feet, with a depth of 250 feet. The purchasers intend building a new theatre with stores on the first floor.

The property of The Norristown Ice Company has been sold to a syndicate in the same business, who intend doubling the output of ice.

*Read before the Society, February 22, 1923.

The electric light plant of the United Gas Improvement Co. is being established on Barbadoes Island, which it purchased from the Reading Railway Co.

Fenton Cloud is building twenty-four dwelling houses at Pine and Freedly streets; other building operations are under way, in both the West end and the East end of Norristown.

Officials of Montgomery Hospital have bought the Rush B. Smith property on Powell street.

It is a notable fact that the Montgomery Fire Company, on its organization in 1847, bought the lot on which its fire-house stands, from Mahlon Bolton, for \$800.00!

The School Board of Norristown is considering the purchase of a tract of ground belonging to Major Joseph Knox Fornance, in the West end of town, upon which to erect the proposed High School. The value of Major Fornance's holdings is estimated at \$313,482.65, reckoned as if sold in building lots. The School Board wants 8½ acres of this farm land, and a jury-of-view has set a value of \$31,500 on the tract.

The William West property, located near the King-of-Prussia, has been sold to Mrs. Graves, of Strafford, who contemplates remodelling the dwelling, and establishing a school for blind children.

On June 5th the "Norristown Herald" moved into its new quarters on Markley street, a property valued at \$150,000.

EDUCATIONAL

Prof. Deitrich has recently been elected Superintendent of the Norristown Schools. He has organized a citizenship class for aliens, to be held at Norristown and at Swedesburg. Three hundred aliens attended the first meeting, held in the Marshall street school. Prof. Deitrich has also inaugurated a "measurement class" for teachers, who will study the latest systems for intelligently gauging the mentality of children, and for advancing and grading them according

to modern standards. The students of the High School were recently subjected to an "observation test"; these tests were made under the auspices of the Erb Chemical Society, and are not new; they were used in some colleges more than a generation ago, but were recently brought into Montgomery County by Prof. Hottenstein, of Conshohocken.

West Norriton township is planning to erect a school building for the first- and second-year High School classes.

The new school buildings at Oaks, Pa., cost \$34,000. The bronze tablet containing the names of the members of the School Board, the contractor, etc., was furnished by the Oaks Improvement Company.

The Directors Association of this county has appointed the historian, Howard W. Kriebel, of Pennsburg, to write a History of Montgomery County to be used as a text-book in the schools. Mr. Kriebel is well qualified for the work, as for a number of years he was editor of the Pennsylvania German Magazine, and as a member of the Schwenkfelder Church he was sent abroad, a few years ago, to make historical research for the Board of Publication of that Society. He is at present connected with the Schwenkfelder Historical Library at Pennsburg. He will be assisted in the preparation of the proposed book by Prof. Landis, the County Superintendent; Richard Hamilton, of Lower Merion; Howard Erving, of Cheltenham; Samuel Yeakle, of Whitemarsh; Isaiah Stover, of Harleysville; Rev. T. R. Brendle, of Green Lane; Rev. William U. Kistler, of Pennsburg; Rev. George W. Lutz, of Pennsburg; Charles Mann, of Horsham; Rev. Nelson Schmidt, of Schwenksville, and Miss Clara A. Beck, of Norristown.

Montgomery County in the Campaign of 1777-78*

By W. H. RICHARDSON

The story of the campaign of 1777, with the board set and the game on, could properly start with Howe's disembarked army marching through Elkton, Maryland, on August 27th. His 17,000 men had landed the day before at Oldfield's Point; almost immediately a proclamation was issued by the British commander-in-chief, offering pardon and protection to all who would surrender to his authority, and assuring the inhabitants that order and discipline would be preserved. Near the edge of Elkton is a building, then a hotel, that must have done a brisk business, that stormy, sticky August day, refreshing the ship-weary invaders. This house has a further interest in that, on November 8, 1798, President Washington stopped there for dinner, while on his way to the capital, Philadelphia; and again, on December 15th of the same year, he dined and lodged there. Montresor notes in his diary that the soldiers were not in the best of shape, and that the heavy storm of the night had damaged a lot of their ammunition.

A fine old doorway to a brick building, just beyond, gives a rather suggestive hint as to the opulence of some of the citizens, as well as to the skill of colonial builders. A Mr. Galloway, who had acted as guide for the British through the country, paid a fine tribute to their patriotism before the House of Commons, in 1779, when he was trying to explain "how it happened" to the Commander of His Majesty's forces in the fateful and fruitless campaign of 1777. "To begin with, General Howe happened to land his

*Read before the Society, April 7, 1923.

troops in a part of the country more disaffected than any part I know. I mean Cecil county, Maryland. At and about the head of the Elk, a number of persons did desert their houses, and carry off their effects, but not all"—those who didn't, doubtless had their oversight properly corrected by General Howe's foragers.

An old house a little farther up in the town is the Commissary Hollingsworth place, a beautifully preserved specimen of colonial architecture, with pent-eaves, hand-cut mouldings and cornices, keystone lintels, and all that. Past this the British drifted, and then proceeded on into Delaware by two roads, with the object of later reuniting the divisions, and spreading out into camp on the high ground from Aitkins Tavern (now Glasgow) to Newark, about five miles east of Elkton. It is said that Washington and Generals Greene, Weedon and LaFayette were in or near Elkton on the 26th, reconnoitering, and that they spent that night in a farm house two miles from Elkton, altho' the British scouts were active, and the risk of capture was very great.

A division of the British under Lord Cornwallis had advanced as far as Iron Hill, in Delaware, and encamped on the high ground which lies back of the Cooch residence, and which slopes gently down to the Christiana creek, and it was from this point that the red-coats swept forward into the first real collision of the campaign, on September 3d. Their cannon, planted on this hill, did really serious damage to the party of Americans opposing them, who, having no such arm, were compelled to retire under pressure of a largely outnumbering foe. Washington wrote to the President of Congress on September 7th, that since Howe had disembarked, on the 25th of August, he had moved about 7 miles, and that then the main body was encamped at Iron Hill, and that the two armies were from 8 to 10 miles apart.

An intended movement of Howe having been discovered, it was decided on the part of the Americans to organize a "light advance corps." It was placed under command of General Maxwell, with instructions to be "constantly near the enemy and give them every possible an-

noyance," and on this historic morning of September 3d, they opened the ball at what has been described as "an advantageous part of the road." (Stedman, the English historian of the "Origin, Progress and Termination of the American War," the champion of Cornwallis and the particular knocker of Howe, disposes of this first engagement in seven words, telling of "dispersing the advanced guards of the enemy.") Captain John Montresor, Howe's chief of engineers, counted only three dead and twenty wounded among the British at that time, notwithstanding the fact that some expert riflemen drew the beads on conspicuous targets.

Of course, one of the chief qualifications of the military news reporter in those times was a fine capacity for satirizing the work done by the other side. An ancient citizen of Delaware posed for me some years ago, holding what he called his father's "splatoon" that was carried in the war at that time. It is not a neat weapon, being a sort of spear-knife affixed to a stout pole, and if the user of it got in the first cut with it, in a personal encounter, the victim would not make a very handsome corpse. But the "splatoon" and the farmer who used it were easy marks for the military diarists from across the pond.

And however little the British accounts make of the affair at Cooch's Bridge, something serious enough had happened to keep them in their lines for nearly a week, and to give Cornwallis a fine home for that length of time, at least. The beautiful Cooch country-place as it is seen today, however, hardly suggests the thought of the two sanguinary armies that once sparred for positions for letting the most of each other's blood there. An interesting bit of local color is given the stories of the times by the report that General Knyphausen had so far taken and brought in five hundred and nine head of horned cattle, one thousand sheep, and one hundred horses, not over forty of which were fit for draught. There does not appear to be any record of what the musicians had collected.

Delawareans are very proud of the claim that the new flag received its first baptism of fire at Cooch's Bridge.

Neither Stedman nor Montresor—nor any contemporaneous British annalist, so far as known—has seen fit to admit any special terror at the sight of the new flag, which, as is well known, was legally created on June 14, 1777, when Congress agreed upon the design of thirteen alternate stripes of red and white, with a “union of thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” A hastily improvised flag, made from the red petticoat of a soldier’s wife, a white shirt, and an old blue jacket, was flung to the breeze after the battle of Oriskany, on August 6th, above the captured British standards, and that was doubtless “Old Glory’s” first appearance in the danger zone. But Cooch’s Bridge marker stands for the debut of the stars and stripes at the head of fighting columns.

To meet the advance of Howe upon the capital, Washington had marched south, passing through Philadelphia on August 24th, drums and fifes playing tunes for the quick-step; and was now strongly intrenched, his left wing near the village of Newport, where the breastworks are still preserved, just opposite Kiamansi Mills, on Red Clay creek, and his right on White Clay creek, west of Stanton. He had about 11,000 men with which to oppose the 17,000 splendidly equipped followers of Howe, and his purpose was to guard the principal highway that Howe would reasonably use in going to the north. Washington expected fully that the decisive battle would be fought here, but at 4 o’clock on the morning of September 9th, Howe’s purpose of cutting around Washington to the northward was so apparent, that orders were given for the march to the Brandywine, there to interpose resistance to Howe’s progress.

And so, the 11th of September finds the militant Americans on the north side of the Brandywine, their centre at Chadd’s Ford, a place named for Francis Chadd, whose ancient house has long been a landmark there. This division was commanded by Wayne, the left by Armstrong, and the extreme right—a division nearly two miles in extent—by Sullivan; while other troops under Greene were in reserve upon high ground farther north. Scientifically, the

disposition was admirable, and it even secured the commendation of the foreign experts. Some fifty yards south of the Chadd house an American battery of three guns was located, and in the somewhat precipitate abandonment of the position later on, one of the guns, a howitzer, was overlooked. Colonel Chambers, of the First Pennsylvania Line, was detailed to get it, which he did, and his modest report of the scrimmage is a model. "I brought all the brigade artillery safely off, and I hope to see them again fired at the scoundrels." Howe mentions *his* capture of the guns, but overlooks the more important enterprise of Colonel Chambers.

The quaint old meeting-house of the Birmingham Friends was not expected to be the real point of the battle. While Knyphausen was making a demonstration at Chadd's Ford, and his men were recognizing an old friend in "Devil Pete" Mühlenberg, on the north side of the creek, Cornwallis made a long swing on the south side with another division, crossed Jeffrey's Ford further up, and stopped to reconnoitre at Osborne Hill, a mile west of the meeting-house. Its remoteness from the most likely point of attack had recommended it to the surgeons for hospital purposes, and the mangled Continentals, wounded in the early part of the action, were taken there in great numbers for treatment by the boiling oil and broadaxe methods then in vogue. After the bloody day's work, the British used it for the same purpose; their invalids filled one hundred and twelve wagons when they were transferred to Wilmington, a few days later. The curious tale of the death of Lord Percy, who is said to be buried somewhere beneath the long grass which carpets the God's Acre there, is told in connection with the action at the meeting-house. He had seen the place in a dream before he left England, and handing his purse and watch to his servant, said, "I know I shall fall here."

Like all the Friends' meeting-houses of that time, Birmingham was plainly furnished, and its oaken floors and benches retain to this day the dark gray stains left by the bleeding bodies of wounded men. Vandals who could not get patriotic blood in any other way, have chipped and



LAFAYETTE'S HEADQUARTERS AT BRANDYWINE
(Photo by William H. Richardson.)

splintered the wood with knives, but fortunately Birmingham oak and fighting blood are both rather too enduring for complete destruction. Another strange story told of the meeting-house is of a time, years before the battle, when one of the speakers from the "preachers' bench," under the stress of inspiration, poured forth a prophecy of the awful carnage and bloodshed the peaceful community was destined to witness. This meeting-house dates back to about 1765, although the congregation, which first met at William Brinton's, is mentioned as early as 1690.

Lafayette, then a boy of twenty, was wounded in the action about a half-mile east of the meeting-house. A tablet, nailed to a tree alongside the road upon which Sullivan retreated, points out the spot definitely. A picturesque house, known as LaFayette's headquarters, is still seen about a mile from the ford, on the road to Chester. LaFayette is something more than a tradition in the Brandywine country, for I remember talking, several years ago, to a gentleman, Joseph Seal by name, then seventy-nine years young, who was lifted up by a colored mammy to see the distinguished Frenchman on the occasion of his second visit to this country, in 1825. T. Miles Frame was another local resident who was able to give me some personal reminiscences of this same occasion.

Washington, whose headquarters were in a house somewhat nearer Chadd's Ford than LaFayette's, seems to have lost the day through the blundering reports of Cornwallis' flanking movement. The Americans were upon the point of crossing Chadd's Ford, where they could have crushed Knyphausen, but delayed doing so, to ascertain the truth about Cornwallis. Scouts had reported that the flanking movement was on; then came word that it was not; and when Washington finally learned that it was so, he could scarcely credit it. His informant sketched the movement in the sand of the road, and pledged the truth of it with his life. And so the battle which, from Washington's standpoint, was a military necessity, for the sake of the impression it would make on the country, was fought, and, in a sense, lost.

Another one of the ancient landmarks is the old Brinton Mill, which stood close to the Brandywine, about a mile and a half above Chadd's Ford, near the end of Sullivan's line. Its produce was doubtless a welcome addition to the commissariat of both armies in the periods of their brief stay. John Fiske says, "nothing could be more absurd than the careless statements that the Americans were routed at the Brandywine. (Joseph Reed puts it that way.) Their organization was as ready for fight as ever. They had exacted a round price for victory. The American loss was a little over one thousand, incurred chiefly in Sullivan's gallant struggle; rolls, afterward captured at Germantown, showed that the British loss considerably exceeded that figure."

After the Americans left the field, the British moved over into their positions; Howe making his headquarters in the big stone house known as the Gilpin place, built in 1754 by George and Ruth Gilpin. Washington moved his army that night, and camped "behind Chester." On the 12th they marched through Darby, crossed the Schuylkill on the floating bridge at the Middle Ferry and went into camp by "Schuylkill Falls." There they refurnished their ammunition, and got their breath for more adventure. There, too, the army was complimented by the Commander-in-Chief upon its gallant behavior at Brandywine, and the pleasant announcement was made that Congress had voted the substantial testimonial of thirty hogsheads of rum, to be distributed among them in such manner as the Commander-in-Chief shall direct, who in turn instructs "the Commissary-General of Issues to deliver one gill per day to every officer and man while it lasts."

Five days later, September 19th, finds the British army in the vicinity of Matthias Pennypacker's mill, on the Pickering creek, an establishment they at once made famous by looting all its grain and flour, breaking its machinery and ripping up its bolting-cloths. Their camp was three miles long, and extended from Fatland ford to beyond Moore Hall. The Americans had a very busy week, too; Baker, in his "Itinerary," giving Washington a new post-

office address every day, in the difficult task of keeping apace with Howe's uncertainties. An opportunity to give battle had come two days after leaving the Falls-of-Schuylkill camp—but a tremendous rain storm wet the ammunition, and so the serious battle expected at the Warren Tavern did not take place, although one hundred men were engaged. Then the Americans moved up to the crossing at Parker's Ford, and down, on the east side of the Schuylkill, to the mouth of the Perkiomen, to resist the expected forward movement of Howe into Philadelphia. On the 20th, the affair at Paoli added another leaf to the book of reverses or misfortunes of war—although the color of that was rather overdone. Wayne really lost but sixty-one out of twelve hundred in his division.

Near the mill on the Pickering is the famous Bull Tavern, associated with the British strategy of the day as the headquarters of Cornwallis. Stedman disposes of practically everything between Brandywine and Philadelphia with very short phraseology, and describes his chief's manoeuvring around this section of the country as "making slight movements which could not by any possibility produce any important benefit to the British cause." But Howe really seems to have mystified Washington, this time, when he turned his back on Philadelphia, with a threatened move upon the Continental supplies in Reading, and drew Washington up along the river again as far as Pott's Grove, and then slipped across the Schuylkill at Fatland, and other fords in its neighborhood, on September 23rd. On the 26th, Howe's march to Philadelphia from Elkton, the course of which might be likened to the line of a long, reversed interrogation mark, came to an end. Washington reported the facts to Congress at the time, and tells the President of Congress of his thousand barefooted men who had performed the marches over those hard hills in that condition.

But we may be sure that when Washington arrived at Pennypacker's Mills he was welcomed by a host who would find it difficult to be more hospitable than his descendant. Among the wealth of historic incidents in these few days was the issuing of the order in Washington's own hand,

impressing "all the Blankets, shoes, stockings and other Articles of clothing that can be spared by the Inhabitants of the County of Lancaster for the Use of the Continental Army, paying for the same at Reasonable rates or giving certificates"; there was the arrival of substantial reinforcements—the thousand Marylanders under General Smallwood; then the news of the engagement between Burgoyne and Gates was received here, and Burgoyne's surrender served the southern army a good turn, too, by earning for it the allowance of a gill of rum per man—a familiar prescription then, that has since been supplanted by applejack.

And yet another most important reminiscence of the camp at Pennypacker's Mill was the momentous council of war attended by various generals to the number of fifteen, on the 28th, at which the decision was reached that men with fighting blood were too far from their work there. So it turned out that the soldiers, on the 29th of September, were gotten upon the march again, to try conclusions once more with the enemy. Washington gives the world a pleasant acknowledgment of his stay there, in his Governor Trumbull letter, in this fashion: "Our Army had the rest and refreshment it stood in need of, and our soldiers are in very good spirits"—and then they moved on to the south, camping the day before Germantown on Methatchen Hill, whence, on the evening of October 3d, the dispositions were made for the next day's tragedy.

One's thought of the battle of Germantown has always a sub-conscious association with the Chew house, that classic monument of one of the great days in our history. Howe's main army still lay at Germantown, Cornwallis having led his advance corps into the city proper; and, with his lines extended for several miles across the village to the Schuylkill, was quietly and comfortably assuring himself of the pacification of the Americans. Washington had put his whole army into this adventure, and in four columns they marched down into Germantown that foggy October morning; Sullivan, in command of the right wing, advancing on the Germantown road, and Armstrong's militia on the road nearer the river. Greene had command of the left wing,

that officer being in personal charge of the division coming in on the Lime Kiln road, and Smallwood and Forman coming in on the York road, to flank the British right.¹

The story is a much-told one: how the British outposts at Mount Airy curled up under the fury and suddenness of Wayne's attack; how Colonel Musgrave and his men sought shelter behind the great doors and stout walls of the Chew house, and how the fortunes of the day were decided by the unavailing attempts of the Americans to dislodge them. The book rule was that an intrenched enemy should not be allowed in the rear. The half hour spent in the hot discussion, cost the junction that was vital to the success of the plan; hearing the heavy firing at the house, the befuddled Stephen swung his brigade out of its prescribed course, and in the dark and fog had mistaken Wayne's column for the enemy, and attacked it; and then the panic grew great, and the confusion spread into a general retreat. Another scalp was at Howe's belt.

That the fortunes of battle were so strangely disposed, seems hard to understand now. When it was all over, Howe took up his headquarters at the Morris house, then in the midst of the tumult, doubtless to superintend the unpacking and re-arrangement of the baggage, which an American officer hints was of the choicest description. Wayne writes how Fortune had "smiled upon us for full three hours. The enemy were broken, dispersed, flying in all quarters; we were in possession of their whole encampment, together with all their artillery . . . we ran away from the arms of victory spread open to us." And Washington reports to Congress that "the tumult and discord and even despair

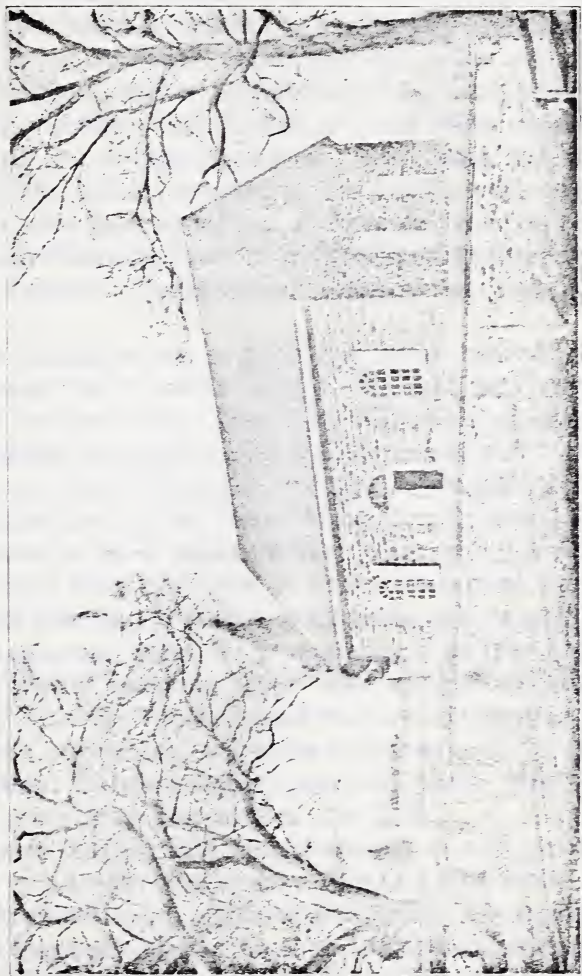
¹ "A mill, fed by a branch of the Windehocking creek, was located about a mile west of the main street in Germantown, on a lane called Mill lane, afterward Church lane, and now Mill street. It was near the intersection of Mill lane and Lime Kiln road. At the time of the battle of Germantown the mill was known as Luchte, or Lukin's mill. The British right wing under Major-General Grant and Brigadier General Matthews was posted at this mill and upon the road leading to it. This mill, at a later day, was called Robert's mill, and was so known for fully half a century later." (The Townsend Memoirs, MSS, p. 11.)—Ed.

which it seemed had taken place in the British army, was scarcely to be paralleled; and, it is said, so thoroughly did the idea of retreat prevail, that Chester had been fixed upon for their rendezvous." But Washington, the great optimist, could not forecast the profound impression made upon the nations of Europe who were watching the war in America, nor the influence Germantown had in settling an alliance that was not an entangling one.

The retreat from Germantown carried many of the soldiers back over the same roads they had so hopefully pursued the night before, their wounded and dying populating many a Montgomery county barn and country church-yard. The old Norriton Presbyterian burying-ground has its quota, too; and besides the illustrious dead who were gathered in then, this historic plot contains the body of Colonel Archibald Thomson. He died in 1779, and in his life was conspicuous enough as a rebel to have his public house, now Jeffersonville Inn, burned by Howe, as he came in from Fatland Ford. This bit of sport cost the State 807 pounds, this amount being paid his widow in 1782.

The burying-ground of Towamencin Mennonite Meeting at Kulpsville contains the graves of many more who were wounded at Germantown. On October 9th, Brigadier General Nash, who, with several other wounded officers, had been carried as far as a farm house near the meeting-house, was buried. His grave is at the foot of a plain shaft there, and southward from his body, in the order named, were interred the remains of Colonel Boyd, Major White, and Lieutenant Smith. It seems a strange irony that the religious houses of the non-resistant and peace-loving people should be so lastingly associated with the bloody days of the war. And one gets a new reading of patriotism when he reflects upon these men who gave up their lives in these old churches, barns and farm houses, with no fond hands to smooth the furrows of final agony as they passed into the beyond, without even the Mosaic glimpse of the glory of the land we have realized because of their devotion.

On the night of the battle, some of the soldiers were back in their former camp at Pennypacker's Mill, and there



NORRITON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

they remained until the 8th. How any comfort could be abstracted from the situation is most difficult to understand, but some of the men of that day had enough bigness of soul to find it. General Knox wrote from here that the troops were in the highest spirits, and ardently desired another trial at arms. Another correspondent tells how the men seemed to grow fonder of fighting "the more they have of it." More recruits came in, too, to add their weight to the impetus of the always-hoped-for "next time." It was from here that the official reports of the battle were dated; and here also that the committee of Friends from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting came to present their testimony against war to George Washington, General of the American Army.

After Pennypacker's Mill, the army moved over into Towamencin for a while longer, "to rest and refresh the men and recover them from the still remaining effects of that disorder naturally attendant on a retreat." Thence it drifted over into Worcester township, Washington making his headquarters at the Peter Wentz, or Schultz, house, as it is known in later times. When Peter and his wife Rosa started their lives together in that substantial home, they set a stone over the doorway, with their initials and a "haus-segen" engraved upon it. It contains a prayer that every blessing should come to those who entered. Washington's fulfilment was the further confirmation of the glad news of Burgoyne's surrender, which was announced to the army on Saturday, October 18th, from this place, the period of his stay being from the 16th to the 20th.

While in this historic neighborhood, it will not be amiss to refer to another landmark, Wentz's Reformed Church, on the Skippack road, south of Kulpsville, the congregation of which has been served by such illustrious men as George Michael Weiss and Michael Schlatter. In early revolutionary times the pastor was Rev. John H. Weikel, and the story goes that he got himself disliked by the civil authorities for preaching a sermon from the 13th verse of the 4th chapter of Ecclesiastes: "Better is a poor and wise child, than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished." One

may imagine the sensation that might be founded in those troublous days upon such a text. Another peculiarity of the good dominie was to drill his old saddle-horse for the times that were at hand, by firing a pistol about the animal's ears.

Whilst the decision was against an attack on Philadelphia, still it was thought best to move a little closer to the city, and the whole army accordingly drew down the valley of the Wissahickon into Whitemarsh, about three miles nearer the present city line. The old fortifications are still plainly discernible in the woods to the north-east of the Van Rensselaer mansion. A curious memento of the camp at Whitemarsh is preserved in the shape of a letter written by the Chevalier du Portail, on November 12th, to the French Minister of War. He had tramped around a good deal with these slow-witted, phlegmatic Americans, and he ought to know them: "Such are these people that they move without spring or energy, without passion for a cause in which they are engaged, and which they follow only as the impulse of the hand which first put them in motion directs. There is a hundred times more enthusiasm in any one coffee-house in Paris than in all the thirteen provinces united"; etc., etc.

From November 2d to December 11th, Washington's headquarters were in the home of George Emlen, a wealthy Quaker, a place that must have been a marvel in its day. The east front is pierced by seventeen windows and two doors; and some fifty years ago, an "L" that was quite as large as that now standing, was torn down. An old mantel is one of the fine survivals, too. It is made of cedar, the center panel being made from a single sheet of wood at least two and a half feet wide, but a modern stove had to be inserted to take the place of the hearth that toasted some great American shins, and so the thirty-inch plank was bored to let through the pipe. The restless Wayne was at Whitemarsh, too, and he dates a letter from there, in which which he agonizes for a fight, believing they could safely inflict such loss upon the British as would oblige them to seek for winter quarters in a less hostile place than Philadelphia. But there was not enough Wayne spirit among the

majority of generals, and so they waited for something to turn up, which it did.

"From a variety of intelligence," Washington writes, "I had reason to expect that Howe was preparing to give us a general action. Accordingly, on Thursday night, (Dec. 4) he moved from the city with all his force, except a very inconsiderable part left in his lines and redoubts, and appeared the next morning on Chestnut Hill in front of, and about three miles distant from, our right wing." Skirmishing parties engaged the British, but they continued their advance, failing, however, to offer battle. On Friday night they were on the left wing, and about a mile away from the American line, and on Sunday they were still farther over to the left, and apparently getting ready to fight.

Any one who has ever climbed up the steep slopes of Fort Hill, or Camp Hill, will get a fairly good idea of why Howe's attack did not get very far beyond the threatening stage; and the redoubt on the hill at Fort Washington is one answer to the question, "Why didn't Howe drive Washington and his already ragged and hungry Continentals over the Blue mountains as he had boasted?" Colonel Morgan's corps and Colonel Gist's Maryland militia, with the customary Morgan action, will doubtless explain why Stedman wrote in his book the bland statement that Howe "did not think it advisable to attack Washington in his present strong position, and returned on the 8th with the army to Philadelphia." At any rate, the Americans had subtracted at least three hundred men from the crowd that had to go back to Philadelphia from the fruitless expedition. One of the great historians of the war refers to these days at Whitemarsh, on the edge of winter, with the army to be held together, and Washington's refusal to fight except on a certainty, as something wonderfully fine in military annals.

On December 11th the army was ordered to march to Swedes' Ford, although it had been originally intended to pass at Matson's Ford, where a bridge had been hastily constructed; but a body of four thousand British under

Cornwallis having appeared on the height above West Conshohocken, this plan was changed. In fact, nearly one thousand of the Americans had crossed, but after some exciting adventures, graphically reported by General Potter and Colonel Lacey, notably, they returned to the east side of the river, and marched up the three and one-half miles to the other Ford,¹ the passage of which was effected on the 12th. The diary of Dr. Albigece Waldo gives us one of the most human accounts of the day's business, in this style: "We are ordered to march over the river. It snows—I'm sick—eat nothing—no whiskey—no baggage—Lord!—Lord!!—Lord!!!—till sunrise crossing the river—cold and uncomfortable."

On the 13th, the army marched into the Gulph, a place which this same Dr. Waldo says "seemed well adapted by its situation to keep us from pleasures and enjoyments of this world or being conversant with anybody in it." Other nice things about the place were, that there were so few families to steal from, and there were warm sides of the hills to erect huts upon. A gill of rum—the regulation orderly book prescription for official dissipation—had been ordered served to the men, and the appointment of Mr. Archibald Reed, as paymaster to eight Pennsylvania regiments, was announced. The signal service advised that the weather was likely to be fair, so on the strength of that prediction the tents were not taken along; instead the axes were issued, as there was plenty of good wood for the cutting, from which the men could fashion shelters—but either the weather-man failed, or Lieutenant McMichael's diary is wrong, for he wrote in it that they were "without tents or blankets in the midst of a severe snow storm."

With becoming propriety, the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution has perpetuated that week of the war by setting up a great boulder, furnished with bronze plates briefly inscribed with the fact of the encampment. But one cannot discover the whole meaning of the camp from that monument, so I ask Dr. Waldo again to give

¹ Swede's Ford, whence the army marched to the Gulph Hills.—Ed.

us the real Gulph Mills: "What sweet felicities I have left at home—a charming wife—pretty children—good cooking—all agreeable—all harmonious." . . . Then he follows with his doleful vision of the soldier, "his worn-out shoes, his legs nearly naked from the remains of an only pair of stockings; . . . he cries with an air of wretchedness and despair, 'I'm sick, my feet lame, my legs all sore, my body covered with this tormenting itch. . . . I fail fast and all the reward I shall get is 'poor Will is dead.'"

The place is named, it seems, not for the reason that Dr. Waldo seems to insinuate, that it was something fixed between a man and his happiness, but for this great cleft in the hills through which the creek passes on its way to the Schuylkill. If it had been an autumn day in the Gulph Hills, when the wonderful beauty of the country, emphasized by the glorious color of the foliage, and the delicate tints of vanishing distances, is at its height, then one could better appreciate the sermon issued as general orders on December 18th, when the army remained in its quarters because the day had been set apart by Congress as a day for public thanksgiving and prayer. There had been practically no shelter at all for four days, and the weather had been something awful—rain, snow and sleet, and biting cold; and it must have seemed bitterly ironical to have to listen to the proclamation issued by Congress from their "comfortable room and by a good fireside."

An interesting survival of those dark days at the Gulph is the Henderson Supplee house, just across the road from the marker. At a little later period than the encampment, when the country was outposted for long distances between the two armies, with a view to heading off any hostile operations, this house was the headquarters of Aaron Burr. Colonel Burr had command of the post here, and the story of how he checked the spread of a mutiny by striking off the arm of the ringleader with his sword, is one of the incidents that identify him with the locality. Lord Stirling was in command of the post there for a time, and his headquarters were a little farther to the east, at a place still known as "Rebel Hill."

Between the Gulph Mills and the Bird-in-Hand is a very curious outcrop, known locally as the Gulph Rock.¹ It is one of the landmarks in that country. Seen from the west, the profile of a ram's shaggy head and neck is quite apparent. The rock figures prominently in sentimental journeys of the youth of the neighborhood, for that is the place where the toll is taken from fair lips on moonlight nights. Another story, which has the sanction of truth from the man who told it to me, is, that some mischievous boys one night cut a lot of saplings, and hammered them under the overhang. The news spread that the rock was slipping down, and from their hiding places in the shrubbery these same boys got what fun they could out of the farmers who were compelled to drive long distances to escape the landslide that didn't come. The sequel of the story is that most of the boys of Gulph Mills could not sit down for a month.

On the 19th, at ten in the morning, the army was again on its way, the Gulph road forming the main highway of march. The picturesque old King-of-Prussia Inn, located at the junction of the Gulph and Swedes' Ford roads, was erected in 1769, and it must have been a place of familiar resort at that time. It is no wonder that it has been good "property" for the romancers who have made use of the Revolutionary period. Anne Robeson Brown has a charming description of it in her story of "Sir Mark," and George Morgan gets it into his narrative of the adventures of "John Littlejohn of J." It has an interest to Freemasons, too, as being the occasional meeting place of Lodge No. 8, an historic organization warranted by the Provincial Grand Lodge, June 24, 1766, and which carried on its roster the names of many a man who served with distinction at Valley Forge.

One does not get the real Valley Forge "atmosphere" in summer time. The beautiful stream which passes on its way to the Schuylkill, through the narrow gorge in the hills there, had other uses, too, besides being merely pictur-

¹ Now known as "The Hanging Rock."—Ed.

esque. Its fall furnished an abundance of power for the industries established along its banks many years before the militant Americans made it famous.. But none of the glory of midsummer, and "the flickering shallows where the shadows bide," the wealth of foliage about the lazy waters, concerned the historic pilgrimage of 1777.

Near the old dam on the creek is the site of an iron-working plant which gave the place its name, and which, in 1757, came into the possession of John Potts. The business of Mount Joy forge—or the Valley forge, as it soon came to be known locally—was a very flourishing one; a great many teams and men were employed in making and marketing its products. Ironmaster John Potts saw that a mill which would furnish feed for the horses and flour for their drivers would be a profitable adjunct to the older industry on the creek, and in 1758 this was built, and it lasted until 1843.

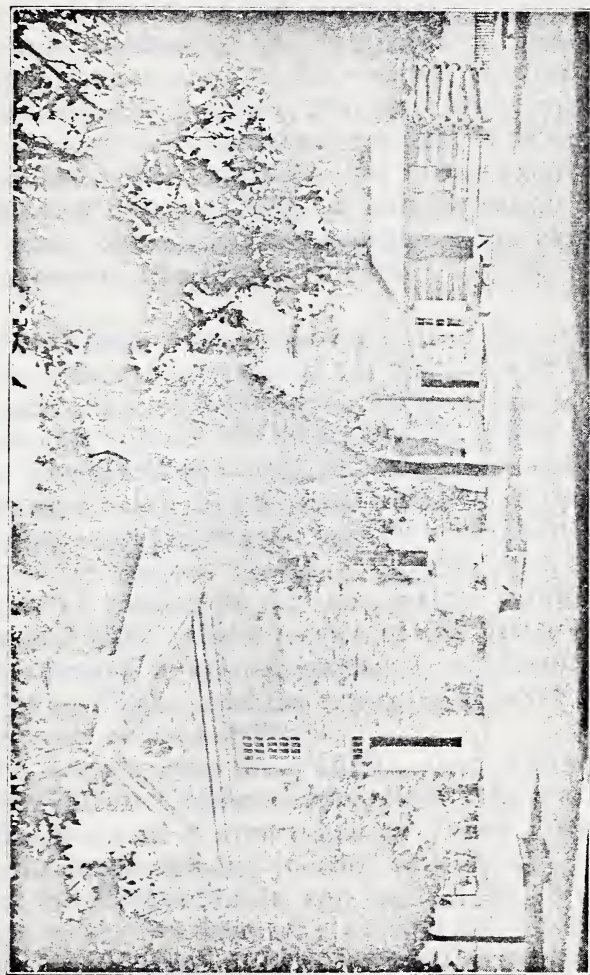
About the same time, he built the mansion, which, with the mill, came into possession of his son Isaac in 1768. One of the early historic references to the mill, by the way, appears in a letter from Richard Peters, Secretary of War, to Thomas Wharton, president of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He wrote on August 30, 1777 (Washington at that time was playing hide and seek with Lord Howe in Northern Delaware) about a large quantity of flour spoiling for want of baking; "it lies at Valley Forge." Isaac Potts later on made flour for so illustrious a housekeeper as Martha Washington, but he seems to have had too much modesty to advertise either the generous appreciation of Thomas Wharton, or the patronage of His Excellency's household.

Almost the first object to attract the attention of the visitor, upon disembarking from the railway train at Valley Forge, is this old pointed-stone house of miller Isaac Potts, the structure which all America cherishes today as the headquarters of Washington for the half year the army was encamped upon the hills to the south. The place is now restored to its ancient similitude as far as possible. Martha Washington arrived there somewhere near the 1st of Febru-

ary, and her presence there seems to have contributed greatly toward lightening the dreariness for many an afflicted soldier. With the concern that distinguished another Martha centuries ago, she seems to delight in the improved household conveniences. "The General's apartment is very small," she wrote; "He has had a log cabin built to dine in, which has made our quarters much more tolerable than they were at first."

The log cabin has been rebuilt, and the whole house, with its sacred memories, given over to the perpetuation of the "times which tried men's souls." A subterranean passage which is said to have led to the river's edge has been vaulted up for some distance. Internally the place has been restored as closely as can be to the flavor of the early days when history was in the making. The various rooms abound in interesting pictures, articles of furniture and other relics of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods—in such profusion, it might be remarked, as to give a certain plausibility to the story that Washington turned down an agreeable invitation one morning, on the plea that he yet had a dozen houses to headquarter in, fifty tables to write on, as many beds to sleep in, and two hundred and fifty chairs to sit on, and the morning was already far spent.

But the visitor to this historic shrine, wandering through its rooms and halls, cannot but revert to the great Commander-in-Chief, and think of the problems he had to confront there, problems that would have appalled ordinary men. Here he faced and confounded the malign conspiracy of Conway; the misery and wretchedness of his suffering soldiers came home to him here; and it was here that he displayed a superhuman strength and courage in keeping alive through the long winter the feeble spark of a thing called the American Revolution. Here, too, the jangle of jealousies and the tiresome courts-martial got on his nerves; but despite all the foolishness and imprudence displayed by another great American, Washington pardoned, remitted and respited; and yet the army lived through its disappointed petty revenges on so many of the poor fellows who, after all, were very human.



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT VALLEY FORGE

In his address at the dedication of the equestrian statue of Anthony Wayne, on June 20, 1908, Governor Pennypacker took occasion to develop the reasons for locating the encampment at Valley Forge, and, with no little pride, pointed out the influence of this particularly favorite son of Pennsylvania in shaping the campaign to this end. Wayne's intimate knowledge of the country, coupled with his familiarity with the problems that were then engaging the military authorities, certainly gave weight to an opinion which subsequent events justified to the fullest extent. His service up to this time had been of extraordinarily high merit. In a sense, one regrets the passing of the bards of old, with a character like Wayne to furnish the "copy" for them.

It seems eminently fitting, therefore, that this colossal figure of Wayne should so dominate the landscape at Valley Forge, for next to that of Washington, his greatness loomed in the drearier days. From the heights, in the center of the outer line of intrenchment, the figure looks to the east over the rolling ground below, in perpetual memorial of the man who made good. Anthony Wayne may be accounted for by some, perhaps, on the new theory of eugenics; his father had distinguished himself in civil and martial affairs; his grandfather had done valiant service at the battle of the Boyne. But ancestry is not altogether a satisfactory explanation of why Wayne lived the strenuous life ever better than his forebears or his neighbors.

A granite marker along the roadside, about half a mile west of Centreville, in Chester county, directs the wayfarer to the official home of Wayne while at Valley Forge. In those days the house alluded to was, as it is still, in the possession of the Walker family, and the fact that Wayne's wife was kin to the Walkers may account for his having taken his residence there. Wayne's troops were the First and Second Pennsylvania Line. They were encamped about a mile and a half nearer Valley Forge, and the story of their deplorable condition is most graphically told in the correspondence emanating from this ancient homestead. As late as May 4th, one of his letters to President Wharton

said that his men were "too naked to Appear on Parade." Still, had there been a Stony Point to take, lack of clothes would not have stood in the way.

In a letter from here, written to Secretary of War Peters, Wayne says that while he is not over-fond of danger, yet he would most cheerfully agree to enter into action once every week, instead of visiting each hut in his encampment as is his custom, where the pitiable condition of things beggars all description. "For God's sake, give us—if you can't give us anything else—give us linen that we may be enabled to rescue the poor worthy fellows from the vermin which are now devouring them and which has emaciated and reduced numbers exactly to answer the description of Shakespeare's apothecary. Some hundreds we thought prudent to deposit some six foot under ground—who have died of a disorder produced by want of clothing."

Not far away from the Wayne headquarters is another farmhouse associated with Frederick William Augustus, Baron von Steuben, the drill-master, or Inspector General, who had arrived at Valley Forge early in 1778. It is interesting to note that within a few months the man who was not over-fond of danger, was being lauded to Heaven as a "Modern Leonidas"; those poor fellows whom he describes as "covered with rags and crawling with vermin" were eye to eye with the crack troops of the British army at Monmouth—and it was not good for the grenadiers. Steuben plunged at once into the work that had brought him to Valley Forge, and his report of the conditions there is certainly classic. "I saw officers at a grand parade at Valley Forge mounting guard," he says, "in a sort of dressing gown made of an old blanket or a woolen bed cover. With regard to their military discipline I may safely say that no such thing existed."

Rising at three o'clock in the morning, he would be on the parade ground at sunrise, take a musket in his own hands and show the picked squad just how the thing was to be done. In a few weeks of that sort of personal effort he had the whole camp fired with his own enthusiasm, so that the men with whom he began were able to execute the most

difficult movements with the greatest precision. His report says that the arms were in a horrible condition, caked with rust, half of them without bayonets, many from which a single shot could not be fired. Historians agree, I think, that the cautious opinion of this soldier, as given by the Commander-in-Chief to Congress, has proven perfectly safe: "He appears to be much of a gentleman . . . a man of military knowledge and acquainted with the world."

Another famous man who makes a substantial contribution to the story of the privations at Valley Forge was General Nathanael Greene. As late as February 20, 1778, he writes that the soldiers "were seven days without meat, and several days without bread. We are still in danger of starving. Hundreds of horses have already starved to death." Greene was appointed Commissary General, March 2d, and immediately a change for the better was noted. His headquarters are said to have been at the old Conrad house, about a mile east of the Gulph Mills. It was built in 1747. Historians today rank the exploits of this son of a Rhode Island Quaker among those of the greatest generals, and he absorbed his tactics, and digested them pretty thoroughly, too, from books, just before the outbreak of the war, which he felt sure to come, with the mother country. For his work at Valley Forge, Washington commended him to Congress in this fashion: "in a word he has given the most general satisfaction and his affairs carry much the face of method and system."

It must not be imagined for one moment that the ragged and barefoot army went to Valley Forge and found those neat little chinked and chimneyed log huts, such as are now artistically spotted over the park, waiting for them, with cheerful fires blazing upon the hearths. They were details that took weeks to work out, with axe and adze in snow and sleet. There were no roast beef sandwiches or hot coffee on this "hike" for the fathers of today's sons. The army arrived at Valley Forge on December 19, 1777, and so early as the 20th, the soldiers were under general orders to save such parts of each tree they cut down for firewood,

as will do for building, reserving sixteen and eighteen feet of the trunk for logs to rear their huts with.

Three weeks later they were evidently still building these houses, for on January 9th, the orderly book directs the men who could be spared from hutting to erect hospitals—a replica of which is now one of the attractions of the park. The number of sick had grown to alarming proportions, three thousand and over being the estimate of some. These hospitals were to be fifteen feet wide and twenty-five feet long in the clear, and the story at least nine feet high. There were to be windows made on each side, and a chimney at one end. I believe no door was provided in the orderly book specifications, although our friend Dr. Waldo, who has gotten into a better humor in the meantime, tells of the one door on wooden hinges, hung to let in the friend, or sickly throng. They were to be covered with boards or shingles only, without dirt—this last condition, considering the contemporaneous bug-infested and slum-stained literature, a most curious and ironical reflection upon the work of those early hospital founders.

The huts the men occupied were theoretically furnished with large quantities of straw, which the Quartermaster-General was directed to use his utmost exertion to procure from the neighboring farmers, who had been advised to get their grain threshed out pretty quickly, or the straw would be taken with the grain in it, which is likely what happened. An easy and expeditious manner of covering these huts was also an occasion of some concern, and a guessing contest with a proffered reward for the best solution had been projected, Major General Sullivan, Greene or Sterling to act as judge in deciding how a roof could be put on without tin, sawed shingles or tar paper. We quote again from the sprightly Waldo, who says of one roof, "although it leaks when showers are o'er, it did not leak two hours before." Ordinary Valley Forge mud and chestnut splints seems to have been the winner.

The very name of Valley Forge suggests dreariness of soul; its literature is sombre with wretchedness and misery, and it is needful for the one who would appreciate its les-

p. 154. For *Sterling*, read *Stirling*.

sons, to tramp the roads there in winter—and particularly a very cold winter. The hungry and forlorn champions of a well-nigh hopeless cause, wasted by wounds, privations and disease, finished their distressing campaign for the year, and traced their weary way up over the old highways, to “occupy a cold, bleak hill, and sleep under frost and snow without clothes or blankets,” at Valley Forge. “The unfortunate soldiers were in want of everything; they had neither coats, hats, shirts, nor shoes; their feet and legs froze till they became black, and it was often necessary to amputate them.”

It is said that in summer more pilgrims visit this historic spot every week than Washington had in his whole army then, but the real Valley Forge is not seen in summer. Under the patronage of a great Commonwealth, Valley Forge Park of this day presents an aspect of finely-groomed landscape-gardening, with broad, smooth highways leading to fair and far vistas, and with stone markers dotting it for the information of the unhistoric wayfarer. Nearly five hundred acres are now included in the reservation, and it is to the lasting credit of the late Governor Pennypacker that the consummation of years of endeavor on the part of many patriotic citizens was reached in the perpetual dedication of this hallowed ground to the American people.

The one criticism that any one can breathe at Valley Forge today is, that it looks too good to be true. Fort Huntington, like the other works, is beautifully sodded over and freshly mounded up; portable relics of the Revolutionary age are carefully guarded with wire covering; houses and cross-roads and fortifications are labeled and identified. John Waterman, a Rhode Islander who never went home from the war, is covered with a heavy wire screen—not so much with the idea, perhaps, of keeping John as a feature of Valley Forge, as of keeping vandals away. Everything today is in such marked contrast with the times when Wayne, for instance, asked for clothes for his men, who were clutching shreds of old blankets over their nakedness—and the reply came, it will be recalled, that the delay in furnishing it was “due to the want of buttons.”

But still it will be a long while before the natural beauty of the place is entirely caught up with by the landscape desecrator. The lovely stream in the valley below had attractions to utilitarian Isaac Potts; it turned his mill wheel, and fed and clothed his family; and when the military engineers came, they found in it a natural defense from any serious attack in that direction, west of the main encampment, although from what we know now of Howe's masterly inactivities, such a contingency was exceedingly remote. At Valley Forge the flow of the creek is almost due north for the mile from General Knox's headquarters to the Schuylkill, and the stream must have carried a much greater volume of water than it does now. Mount Joy, the highest summit on the east bank, lifts its wooded crest four hundred and twenty-four feet above the sea.

The unique contemporaneous map of the encampment which Governor Pennypacker found—as he finds so many of his treasures, in places where no one else thinks to look for them—gives a very good idea of the contours and the location of many of the brigades. Farther from the Schuylkill is the summit of Mount Joy, four hundred and twenty-four feet; a little farther north is another summit of three hundred and fifty feet, and still farther north and east, a third hill with its crest about three hundred feet high. The eastern descent of these hills breaks into an undulating landscape upon which most of the brigades were encamped—that one exception being, I believe, the Carolina troops, who occupied the knoll across the creek in front of general headquarters and whose resurrection from the obscurity of many years may be laid to the enterprise and discriminating taste of our friend, Governor Pennypacker.

The three hills just mentioned still bear the records left by the citizens of that long departed community. Mount Joy and her two sisters are still the proud wearers of their grass-grown chaplets—very scientifically banded and correctly cut today—in the shape of lines of earthworks sixteen hundred feet, three hundred feet, and thirteen hundred feet long, placed there on the crests by the toilers, in the youth

of our nation. Below these works, too, are still preserved Fort Huntington, protecting the northern end of the lines, and dominating the river road and the country of the Schuylkill valley; and Fort Washington, at the south end of the lines on Mount Joy, commanding the approaches from the south and west.

Another feature of sufficient importance as to get on the old map, is the Star Redoubt, now almost an indistinguishable hump on the landscape—but still visible, if you know where to go looking for Star Redoubt, with guide posts alongside. This was built to command the approach to Sullivan's bridge, a temporary structure thrown across the river about a quarter of a mile northeast of the fort. Stedman would have us believe that Washington didn't have much confidence in the Star Redoubt, for he says that when the returns from Barren Hill commenced coming in, "he thought the case so hopeless that he broke his bridge across the Schuylkill lest the success should be pursued against him." It would seem that while Stedman was dreaming, he should have had the bridge-breakers at work, building another Star Redoubt that afternoon.

From the high ground near the Wayne monument, one gets a great panoramic view of the ground occupied by the army. Commencing at the south and sweeping around to the east, beyond the outer line of intrenchments, were the encampments of Scott's Virginians, Wayne's Pennsylvanians, Poor's New Yorkers, Glover's Massachusetts men, Larned's New Hampshiremen, Patterson's Vermonters, Weedon's Virginians, and Mühlenberg's Pennsylvanians and Virginians. Nearer in, and commencing at the southern end of Mount Joy, beyond Fort Washington, were Woodford's Virginians; east of them, Knox's artillery; a little farther north, Maxwell's New Jerseymen; in the cove or hollow in front of the shoulder of Mount Joy were the Pennsylvanians of Conway—a gentleman whose name suggests other and different memories; next the river road, near the fort which bears part of his name, General Jedediah Huntington's Connecticut troops were encamped. Altogether thirteen brigades are named, and there was an aggregate of possibly seven thous-

and men. In modern "efficiency" work it would be thought a trifle top-heavy with administration.

Long before the work of "restoring" the camp grounds was undertaken, the sites of huts on the north side of the river road were easily discerned. When the structures were originally built, the earth was banked up around the logs as an additional protection against the biting cold, and in the ruins of later years the regularity of the plan of this diminutive village was well preserved. Varnum's Rhode Island and Connecticut troops lived in it, and a model of one of these early bungalows has been erected by the Colonial Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, upon the primitive foundation. Across the road, the ground slopes sharply to the south, and in the midst of the field there is the grave of John Waterman, and the Waterman monument, erected by the Daughters of the Revolution in memory of the "Soldiers of Washington's Army who sleep at Valley Forge."

General George Weedon, who commanded a brigade of Virginians, and whose military home at Valley Forge is said to have been in what was the Stephens house, is the one who has put us almost upon speaking terms with the army in the large part of the campaign. In the orderly book that it associated with his name, the characters in that historic operation are very real and human, and the plain unvarnished narrative of their doings as recorded in the military diary is doubtless the greatest contribution to the literature of that time. For instance, it records among other infinite details of camp life, the findings of the courts-martial—and there were a prodigious number of them. "Lashes well laid on upon his bare back" was the customary sentence, the stripes ranging in count from thirty to as high as five hundred. If a man wasted his ammunition by firing his piece unnecessarily, thirty-nine for that; desertion one hundred; stealing one hundred, and so on.

Valley Forge in winter then, with none of its present day opportunities, was not exactly the place to keep one's feet warm, and so there were desertions aplenty, and excessive drinking and gambling—all of which was grist for the judicial mill. One officer, Lieutenant McDonald, was tried for

“unofficer and ungentleman-like behavior in taking two mares and a barrel of carpenter’s tools on the lines, which mares he conveyed away, and sold the tools at private sale.” The court was unanimously of opinion that the Lieutenant was guilty of facts alleged, but that “they do not amount to unofficer and ungentleman-like behavior,” and he was acquitted. How like a modern Senatorial whitewash it sounds. Another lieutenant was found guilty on the same charges, of conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman “in taking Jack Brown’s allowance of whiskey, drinking it and refusing to pay for it.” He was sentenced to be discharged from the army—and deserved it, for a crime so heinous.

Still another officer, in the commissary department, escaped some of the rigors of a Valley Forge winter by getting caught at grafting. He was sentenced to refund \$200, and to be brought from “the Provost Guard mounted on a horse without a saddle, his coat turned wrong side out, his hands tied behind him and be drum’d out of the army (never more to return) by all the Drums in the Division.” A captain, too, is accused of “being so far Ellivated with Liquor when on the Parade for exercising as rendered him incapable in doing his duty with precision,” and he was acquitted because the court could not settle the age-worn question as to how much liquor makes a man properly, or improperly, “soused.” And still another officer got away from awful Valley Forge after he had “his sword broke over his head on the grand parade at Guard mounting.”

The headquarters of Lord Stirling are still preserved, standing along the road to the south and west of Mount Joy. Just to show what a day in camp meant, on the program for a day when this officer was the Major-General, the orderly book promulgates instructions regarding treatment of soldiers afflicted with the itch; details are appointed for the execution of a soldier who deserted, and aided two prisoners to escape, and instructions are issued that in order to avoid discrimination between play and gaming, both cards and dice are forbidden under any pretext whatever—evidently

there were quibblers over the noble art of horse-breeding in those times, too. This New Jersey officer with the decidedly undemocratic name, figured at Valley Forge as one of the warm friends of the Commander-in-Chief in that infamous Conway affair, and it was he who had been instrumental in disclosing the existence of the plot, while the army was encamped at Whitemarsh.

The John Moore house is associated with the career of another brave and able man, General Peter Mühlenberg, whose dramatic entrance into military affairs has been embalmed in T. Buchanan Read's poem in "The Wagoner of the Alleghenies." The incident is the occasion of his farewell sermon in his church at Woodstock, Virginia, when, after pronouncing the benediction, he threw back his ministerial robe, and appeared in his continental uniform: "There is a time for all things—a time to preach and a time to pray; but there is also a time to fight, and that time has now come." His biographer has shed a great deal of light upon the prevalence of the personal jealousies of officers with regard to their rank or precedence, by publishing the correspondence Mühlenberg had concerning his own status. They are virile documents, and wonderfully illuminative of a situation that theoretically should have killed the American cause.

On the old plan is indicated a mill which is marked as Jenkin's mill. It is driven by a stream which is fed heavily from a spring that bubbles from the side of a meadow near the Moore or Mühlenberg house. The stream is quite popular today with local anglers, and it had similar seductions in the earlier days. I wonder whether Washington had time for a day off when the trees were budding at Valley Forge? He certainly knew of the place, for on July 30, 1787, he and Gouverneur Morris left Philadelphia during a recess in the Continental Convention, "to get trout" in this stream—not to go fishing, as a less masterful man might put it, but "to get trout." The next day he paid a visit to the cantonment which he says he found largely in ruins. The homestead attached to the mill in later years sheltered Joseph and Mary Read, the progenitors of a large family of illustrious men

and women who rendered most distinguished service in military, scientific and intellectual affairs of the nation.

On May 18, 1778, as a climax to the long months of soul-killing life in the camp, came the brilliant sortie to Barren Hill. An expedition of twenty-two hundred men, with five cannon, was organized and put in charge of the youthful LaFayette, with instructions to obtain intelligence of the enemy's designs, obstruct any attack on the camp, and to generally harass their operations. Washington cautioned LaFayette that the detachment was a very valuable one, and that its loss would be a severe blow to the army. The party included six hundred militia under General Potter, and some fifty Iroquois Indians, with Captain Alan MacLean's independent company. LaFayette crossed the river at Swedes' Ford, and reached Barren Hill by the Ridge road. Upon the high ground south and west of the church, he disposed his columns, and advanced the scouting party of MacLean's independent and Iroquois for two miles nearer Philadelphia. The six hundred militia were advanced along another road to the southeast, but they disappeared without firing a shot, on the first sight of the British, and have nothing further to do with the story of Barren Hill, except for the trouble they made.

The Schuylkill river and the steep rises on its east bank at Spring Mill furnished a natural defense for his lines in that direction, and so with LaFayette's men in place, the British plans developed. One division under General Grey, of about two thousand men, approached his left wing through Germantown, from the southeast, with the purpose of opening the attack at the church. Another division, under the personal command of Generals Howe and Sir Henry Clinton, advanced by the Ridge road to engage LaFayette's front, and so certain were they of their success, that it is said arrangements had been made for a pleasant little reception for the distinguished young Frenchman upon their return to Philadelphia. General Howe's brother, Admiral Lord Howe, also accompanied the division, in the expectation that he would be one of the escort back to the city.

A third division of the British reached Plymouth Meet-

ing-house on the morning of May 20th. This was under command of General Grant, and consisted of eight thousand men and fifteen pieces of artillery, and it had made a long detour, east, north and west, through Frankford and Whitmarsh; and then he "waited at the church," when with a few of his men posted nearer Matson's Ford, he might have wiped LaFayette off the military map. In advancing to this position, the militia under Potter had been scared off, and LaFayette's outposts to the east were gone. On that morning, word came to LaFayette that a column, General Grey's, was advancing on his left wing; soon after, word was brought that another column was already occupying the only road that led back to Valley Forge, by way of Swedes' Ford. And then the feeling spread among the soldiers that they were surrounded. If he moved to the south he would have fallen in with the division headed by the "committee of reception" from the Meschianza.

But happily some one that day remembered the road leading down past the ancient Spring Mill, to another one leading northwest along the Schuylkill, that was still open. Quickly changing front, a part of his troops offered resistance to Grey's party, the stone wall of the church-yard affording shelter from the expected attack from that direction. Other columns were sent through the woods to the north to make a "demonstration" to the advancing Grant—who halted for a council over the right course to be pursued. Then LaFayette was quickly dropping his men down the road toward the Schuylkill, General Poor leading the van, and LaFayette brought up the rear with all the rest. Stedman sees nothing inglorious in it for the British, but the sight of the Americans making their way down the road past the mill prompts him to observe that "the disorder and precipitation apparent in the rear of that column sufficiently indicated the terror with which they were attempting their escape."

The retreating Americans eventually reached Matson's Ford, somewhat in a hurry, no doubt, but all accounts seem to agree, in good order. They crossed in safety without losing a man, but with the British in close pursuit, one of

their officers telling how they could see the Americans dotting the Schuylkill like the "corks of a seine." Grant was nearer the ford than LaFayette, but the God of battle turned him to the south, and he and General Clinton met at the church. Clinton, naturally enough, was quite peeved over affairs, for they found the American camp abandoned, and they undertook pursuit by the very track which LaFayette had taken. There was evidently some sort of collision at the Ford when LaFayette was getting his precious cannon across. Stedman says forty Americans were lost. Washington's official report says the whole operation cost nine men. But "the ladies did not see M. de la Fayette, and General Howe himself arrived too late for supper."

LaFayette's headquarters at Valley Forge were in what is known as the Wilson house, and as such it is certainly among the richest in historic flavor. After a night on the high hills commanding Matson's Ford, and discovering that the British had gone back to Philadelphia, chagrined and disappointed, LaFayette re-crossed the river, went back to Barren Hill, and in a few days was back at Valley Forge, where Washington received him with many demonstrations of satisfaction. The Commander-in-Chief, too, took occasion to commend him generously in his report to Congress, touching the whole affair, on May 24th. An interesting function that was held in this old house was the dinner given by LaFayette to his fellow officers from France, in honor of the French Alliance.

But there is another aspect of Valley Forge with which the world is getting better and better acquainted. The sombre colors of intrigue and bickering and privation were being woven into the chrysalis from which was presently to emerge the spirit of real national unity. It was at Valley Forge that the idea of "this," not "these," United States got its great impetus. The markers all over the Park today tell what it was, up to the time that Baron von Steuben came to hammer an American army out of disorganized state levies, all of whom were bubbling with their local prejudices and personal jealousies over official appointment and whatnot. On June 19, 1778, the troops evacuated

Valley Forge, and started in haste after Sir Henry Clinton's seventeen thousand troops and his twelve-mile supply train. When the clash came at Monmouth, on the 28th, the wonderful weapon fashioned by the Prussian drill-master on the dreary hillsides proved its worth nobly, and but for the perfidy of that "damned poltroon," Charles Lee, the war would have ended then and there. Valley Forge was the birthplace of the American Army.

Our Curios*

By KATHARINE PRESTON

A historical museum is almost like a fairy story, for it hardly seems possible to us that the exhibits really belonged to and were used by people so long ago, and in their time seemed as up to date and wonderful as our modern wonders do to us. As one walks around the room, and looks at the articles in the cases, one cannot help being struck by the ingenuity and pains displayed in making the things that we buy without a thought of the making.

I want to call your attention to some few of the things we have of interest, and I hope that it will not be long before all of our curios are arranged so that they may be easily seen.

It seems right to begin with a little frame in the case at the right of the door, as you enter the room, that holds a few strands of Washington's hair. The same case also contains two brass candle-sticks used by him at Valley Forge, and some pewter spoons of about the same period. Who, in these days, would spend hours making a napkin ring of cross-stitch on perforated cardboard, or a pincushion or needle-book of a scrap of silk left from a dress, worn on some state occasion. But in 1840 work-baskets, needle-cases, boxes and bags were part of every woman's life. Such articles were always at hand, for a woman or a girl was seldom seen without some fine sewing or knitting, and even the tiny tots of six and eight had their samplers on which they must do their stint each day. Here we see, also, part of a bride's dress of the nineteenth century, with samples of

*Read before the Society, April 28, 1923.

two other dresses of calico and silk; the kid gloves of a bride of 1850, with a ruffle of ribbon around the top, finished with a large bow; her wedding shoes of white satin, stitched by hand, and soled by the old-time cobbler, without heels; a man's wedding stockings, knitted with an elaborate design up the front; some old knee- and shoe-buckles of 1740, and various samples of gay old ribbon. There are several pairs of old spectacles with the extension arms, and some with octagon-shaped lenses, two tortoise-shell combs used in the stately hair dressing of the olden times; hand-knitted mitts; linen mitts; silk gloves; a wonderful quilted bonnet; a Quaker cap of 1820; several hand-made baby caps; some old lace under-sleeves, and various lace and embroidered collars, in shape not unlike some of ours of today. The jet bracelet, the cut rubber locket and chain, and the cross-stitch fans make us almost see the stately company of long ago; and the two dolls of 1830 and 1840, with the poke bonnets and stiff dresses of young ladies, recall the quaint little children almost as staid and stiff as their dollies. Note the knitting-needles one hundred years old, made of whale-bone, with half a spool on the end to keep the knitting on; the queer needle for making hair-nets; the ivory needle for pegging mitts; the small netting-needle used one hundred and fifty years ago for making silk hair-nets; the mother-of-pearl snuff-box, and the queer-shaped bottles supposed to contain snuff; the Barlow knife so dear to the heart of a boy, and the various singing-books that remind us of the old-time singing school.

Many of you will be interested in the scrivener's writing-case of 1780, with its quill pen and ink holder, the case containing some small sheets of note paper, with narrow edges of pink and blue, other larger sheets with heavy embossing, the little diamond-shaped seals, the red wafers and the wax for sealing, all recalling the days when letter writing was more of a fine art than it is today. The old valentines, all lace paper; birds, flowers, and the sentiments mostly composed by the sender, in the case of perforated cardboard, with a picture elaborately worked on it, are quite different from our modern ones.

The old time-tables and railroad tickets, of 1842, on the Norristown and Germantown Railroad, and the bridge tickets for the Matson Ford and DeKalb street bridges, make us realize what changes have come about in comparatively recent times. The minute Hebrew scroll and the Jewish phylacterie, and the various medals and postage stamps all have their story to tell.

In the war case, you will see the gay plumes and rosette worn by a soldier of 1812. Anthony Wayne's pistol is one of our cherished relics. We have also a couple of old flint locks, once used on the guns bearing that name; a Confederate fife from the battle of the Wilderness; a piece of a Flag from the frigate "Cumberland," which was sunk by the "Merrimac," and several pieces of wood from the same vessel; a shingle from Meade's headquarters at Gettysburg, and some bullets found near the same place; a bead bag found on the battlefield of Fredericksburg, and a piece of wood, with a bullet encased in it, found on the battlefield of Chickamauga. Then there is Jeff Davis' ink-stand, and a piece of wood from his bedstead; a rusty old bayonet found on the Harry farm at Conshohocken, apparently very old; a broken sword and scabbard, and an oil-stone and horn used in sharpening scythes. From the Spanish-American war we have the name plates of the "Balboa" and the "Rita," captured by our Navy, and a blotter from Moro Castle. There are also various cannon balls, epaulets, badges, spurs, cap-boxes, a sword cane carried during the riots in New York, and a German sword cane. Relics of the Indians are found in the tomahawk, arrow-heads, battle-axe and brass beads used in trading with them. On the lowest shelf are an American helmet, a German helmet, and a Canadian police helmet.

I wish I could tell you in detail about the old china and glass, but I shall have to leave that for some one who is an authority on such things, and content myself with just mentioning some of the treasures in this case. There is the large yellow cider pitcher, and the white pitcher that tells the story of Colonel Ellsworth, the first officer killed in the Civil War, who was shot on the stairs of a hotel by a Con-

federate soldier; a rare Castleford sugar bowl, from the Christopher Saur family; two old tea-caddies; a curious old coffee urn; a number of old cups and saucers, some without handles; and the little glass cup plates, used to set the cup on, when the coffee or tea was poured into the saucer, to cool it enough to drink. There is also an old blue vase, and a ginger jar from China; a queer old-time tea pot; some blue wash-basins and pitchers of Washington's time; a wonderful old soup tureen and a gravy bowl; a miniature of the tureen, and from the same set of china; three glass goblets, probably made in the glass-works in Bridgeport, in 1785 to 1800, and known as Colonial American glass; a lily of blown glass, from the Albertson glass-works; an old glass perfume bottle, a vinegar tester and two glass salt-cellars, one hundred and two hundred years old; two high glasses with B & D stamped on them; a green glass stein, over a hundred years old; two old sand boxes, used a hundred years ago as a blotter is used today; a rare old pie-plate and a souvenir plate from our Centennial of 1812-1912. One of our latest gifts is a full service of Britannia ware, in beautiful condition, and one hundred years old. We have the old bell from the Pennsylvania Female College at Collegeville; some wooden mortars and pestles, so useful to the housewives of long ago, to grind spices with; an old fluid lamp, and various old fat-lamps, so small that one wonders if they did more than make darkness visible, and some interesting old vases inlaid with mother-of-pearl. There are two earthenware butter churns, without dashers. Just a constant shaking brought the butter. I tried it once with a glass jar, after these churns were presented, and found that it took lots of shaking, and still more patience, but I got the butter. There is a fine big earthenware jug, with two spouts, and some plates of different kinds, and two Canton china salad dishes. The old fire hats and water-buckets recall the days of The Pat Lyon, Norristown's first fire engine, which is still to be seen at the Montgomery Hose House.

Downstairs, on top of the case at the left of the front door, as you enter, you can see an old hat-box for a man's

high-crowned, broad-brimmed beaver hat; a wonderful old basket, and an officer's helmet, used in our army, but now somewhat out of fashion. In the case are a wonderful example of the old quilted skirt, two children's dresses, some little shoes laced on the inside, a beautiful shawl, a Swedish apron, some old sewing-boxes and baskets, and two Friends' bonnets, now so seldom seen, even in Philadelphia during Yearly Meeting. A tortoise-shell tea-caddy with two silver boxes, one for green, and one for black, tea; old scissors; candle-moulds; snuffers; old knives and forks; various powder-horns and flasks; an iron stand and two smaller stands for irons, made at Saurman's Iron Works, as souvenirs of Jennie Lind, I think about complete the collection.

Historical Sketch of Flourtown *

By SAMUEL YEAKLE

On March 23, 1904, I had prepared and read, before the Irving Literary Society of Flourtown, a paper concerning the principal places of interest in this locality, and as there have been some changes and improvements since then, it will be necessary to add some matter not at that time referred to.

To write a history of any locality requires much time and painstaking research, and can not be done hurriedly when the desire is to record events truthfully and carefully, and cover the ground thoroughly.

With the facilities at hand, I have endeavored to gather some facts which I trust may be of interest to those who may be present, or who may read these lines.

Flourtown, not Flowertown, as it is sometimes incorrectly written, is one of the oldest villages in the state of Pennsylvania—if it be correct to call it a village, since the very recent improvements, and increase in the number of houses, seem to dignify the place with the name of Town.

The town has existed, no doubt, for more than two centuries. Most of the early settlers were Germans, who probably spread out from the earlier settlements of Germantown and Philadelphia into the country farther north.

In May, 1698, the Great Road to North Wales was laid out upon petition of Nicholas Scull, at one time Surveyor-General of Pennsylvania, to the Provincial Council, and was afterwards incorporated as a turnpike road by Act of Assembly on March 5, 1804, almost one hundred and twenty

*Read at an outing of the Society, October 6, 1923.

years ago. This road is now the main thoroughfare through our time-honored town. In regard to the name Flourtown, an old tradition, and we think not very reliable, says that it received its name from the story, that a man having stolen a bag of flour, in passing through the village, some of the flour leaked out through a hole in the sack, and hence the name Flourtown. This story, however, is hardly credible.

The most reliable, and altogether the most probable, origin of the name is the fact that in the history of the town, from early times to almost within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, this village was the great wheat market of the eastern counties of the state, around and north of Philadelphia. The numerous mills that at one time were in operation along the Wissahickon creek, from above what is now the Borough of Ambler to the confluence of this creek with the Schuylkill river, obtained a great supply of the wheat for grinding into flour, at Flourtown.

Twenty years ago, Thomas Bitting, of Ambler, whom some of our older citizens may remember, and who was then at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, and has since died, aged ninety years, told me he well remembered the farmers coming, with four-horse loads of wheat, in great numbers to Flourtown, stopping at his father's hotel, from the counties of Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Bucks and upper portions of Montgomery county, to meet the millers, who would negotiate with them for the purchase of grain. Most of these transactions, he related, were carried on in Pennsylvania Dutch (or German). The large teams would take their loads of grain to the different mills to be ground into flour. This undoubtedly gave the true name to Flourtown.

Down this "Great Road," as our main thoroughfare was called in earlier times, before the era of railroads, the farmers of the country north of Philadelphia would pass in great numbers, originally going to market on horseback, then later in carts or wagons (but now in auto trucks). This explains, no doubt, the existence of so many hotels in the town, as the traveling public needed entertainment and accommodation.

The hotels of Flourtown all claim a long history, and we will give it as we have gathered it. Mr. E. Matthews, now deceased, who contributed much local history through the columns of the "Ambler Gazette," and otherwise, has written of these hotels and their history, and from this source I have obtained some facts in relation thereto.

At the northern end of the town is the "Hotel Springfield." In 1804, John Bitting bought this property, and carried on the hotel business until 1850, when his son, Thomas Bitting, took charge, and kept it fifteen years.

The second hotel, going south, now called "The Central Hotel," was at one time called "Kline's Tavern," after Nicholas Kline, who kept it forty years. Christopher Mason was an innkeeper here in 1779, and it was a licensed hotel before the Revolution, being opened by Christopher Rex in 1765.

The next hotel, called, within my recollection, "Slifer's Hotel," and now used as a dwelling-house and store, was first kept as a public house about 1760, and at one time bore the sign of "The Eagle." In 1835, Abraham Slifer bought the property, and was succeeded by his son, Charles C. Slifer, whom some of the citizens still remember, but now dead. He carried on, during his ownership, an extensive feed business, in connection with a very thriving hotel entertainment for the numerous market people stopping there.

The hotel now kept by Robert J. McCloskey, and called the "Black Horse," has a record complete, as a hotel, for over one hundred years; it was probably a hotel a long time before, and during the early part of the nineteenth century it bore the sign of "Samson and the Lion."

The "Wheel Pump" hotel, so-called, having a pump with a wheel attached, if it can be considered within the limits of Flourtown, was also an ancient hotel, and it is recorded that Jacob Neff kept a hotel here before the Revolution. This hotel with farm and other dwellings was owned by Abraham Heydrick, son-in-law of Neff, and son of Abraham Heydrick, who built and lived in the old house still standing opposite this hotel, which house was built about 1767, and kept as a store by said Abraham Heydrick.

At one time, it is said, Garrett Simmons kept a hotel on the west side of the turnpike, above Haas lane (which is now, or was, the property of Stevenson Crothers).

Before the time of railroads, stage coaches, drawn by four horses and carrying the mails, passed through Flourtown from Philadelphia to Bethlehem and return. Every ten miles the horses were changed, and the rate of travel was about ten miles per hour.

In earlier times, much hay was hauled through Flourtown, by the farmers in the country above, to the Philadelphia market. Now the number of loads of hay passing down is comparatively few.

Below the junction of Wissahickon avenue with the Bethlehem pike, as it was then called, and in the east side thereof, stood, until about twenty years ago, an old log house. This was one of the old-time log houses built by the early settlers, and was bought and occupied, in 1776, by Captain Balthasar Heydrick, a Revolutionary soldier. I was told that some years ago there were other houses of this type existing on the opposite side of the turnpike road. Captain Heydrick was buried in Union Church Cemetery.

There are other old houses still standing in Flourtown, but in some cases changed in their outside appearance, and substantially built of stone. A house belonging to the Raney estate, standing at the top of the first hill north of Wheel Pump, has upon its front, on a stone in the wall, C.O.-M.O. 1743, built, as these letters indicate, by Christian and Mary Ottinger. It is said that this house was at one time used as a hotel. Farther north, on the east side of the turnpike, is an old house with a log end, owned and occupied by Mr. Lesseig. The plastering is partly broken off, revealing the old-style log house. Still farther north, on the same side, is a house lately renovated, which bore, a few years ago, a date-stone with the figures 1741-1901, indicating, no doubt, the earlier date of building, and the later date of addition or change in the building.

I remember there stood an old house, bearing a date prior to 1700, and owned by Jacob Sorber, on what is now the property of Mr. Campbell, the florist. Still farther

north, and on the west side of the turnpike, and nearly opposite the hotel kept by Robert McCloskey, is an old and apparently substantially built house, now used as a public library under the care of Carson College, which was owned some years ago by Andrew Bartle. Among the old houses I would mention the fine Colonial mansion belonging to the estate of Henry Auchey, near Wheel Pump, which was built in 1728, rebuilt 1787, and enlarged in 1820. Some of the original house still stands; it was, for many years, in possession of the Yeakle family. Mrs. John Faber Miller, a descendant, was born here.

Of the Revolutionary history of Flourtown there is not much recorded that we can find. There is no doubt, however, that the American troops under General Washington, as well as some of the British troops, passed over the turnpike and through this town. After the battle of Germantown, in October, 1777, which resulted adversely to the American Army, the forces under General Washington retired to the country farther north, and later returned and camped along the hills of Fort Washington, from October 31st to December 11th, 1777, previous to taking up their march to the encampment at Valley Forge. The Bethlehem turnpike was in the line of march of this Army.

Some years ago, Charles Yeakle, who lived to be over ninety years of age, and a resident of Flourtown at that time, told me of an incident occurring years before, called the "Battle of Flourtown," not between contending armies, but an encounter between the young bloods of Flourtown and those of Chestnut Hill, being a hand-to-hand fight, resulting in favor of the Flourtown boys, but with no serious casualties.

Jacob Bisbing, also an old resident, now deceased, who lived on the west side of the turnpike, and below the old Ottinger house, told me that the tradition was that General Washington tied his horse to a ring in a large tree in front of the Ottinger house, and that Bisbing had, at that time, the ring in his possession.

On the west side of Bethlehem pike, and directly opposite where the East Valley Green road joins the pike, is an

old mansion, built in 1804-5 by Peter Dager for a hotel; but about fifty or more years ago it was bought by Franklin A. Comly, former President of the North Penn Railroad, who lived there, I think, until his death; and the property is now owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was at one time part of the Judge Longstreth Estate.

Flourtown, it seems, has never made much advance in the way of manufacturing plants or other industries of this character, possibly owing to its lack of direct rail communication with Philadelphia.

About fifty years ago, and perhaps previous to that time, much iron ore was mined in the vicinity of Flourtown, and for a long time was hauled, by large teams, to the furnaces at Spring Mill and Conshohocken, until the Plymouth Railroad was built. The mining industry has since ceased altogether.

The Wissahickon Lodge, I. O. O. F., was organized on the 21st day of April, 1846, and Thomas Bitting, before referred to, was a charter member; he was also the first Noble Grand. Other officers at the time of its organization were: Vice Grand, Kline Shoemaker; Secretary, Dr. J. A. Martin; Assistant Secretary, C. A. Aiman; Treasurer, S. H. Aiman (long since passed away). This is the second oldest Lodge of its kind in the county. The meetings of this Lodge were held in the building which is now the Central Hotel, until the present substantial structure was erected on the west side of the turnpike, just north of the junction with Wissahickon avenue, in the year 1878.

The Springfield Presbyterian Church, immediately north of the crossing of the Plymouth Railroad, is the only house of worship actually in the town. This congregation was organized December 5, 1855, by the Fourth Presbytery of Philadelphia, and the church edifice was built in 1857. The manse belonging to the church was built in 1861. The names of the pastors of this church, since its beginning, are as follows: Rev. Alfred Snyder, from 1857 to 1866; Rev. George Hammer, stated supply, 1867-70; Rev. Henry Mason, pastor, 1871-73; Rev. Joel S. Kelly, pastor, 1874; Rev. William Travis, stated supply, 1878; Rev. William E.

Westervelt, 1882-86; Rev. A. W. Long, from 1886. John Sorber and Amos Dungan were two original elders (both deceased).

The first coal yard in the town was opened by George Sechler, shortly after the Plymouth Railroad was built through the town, the other yard having been built much later, by Edward McCloskey.

The blacksmith shop in the town was managed for years by William Knipe and John Thompson, afterward by Milton Hoffman; now no such business exists. The Flourtown Post Office has been in existence for fifty years or more. Rev. J. D. Detrick, while pastor of the Reformed Church of White-marsh, also conducted here very successfully a model dairy farm for a number of years. The present public school building was erected upon the site of the old building in 1879.

The limits of Flourtown have not been definitely settled. It never has reached the dignity of a Borough, but is in the first-class township of Springfield. In a general way, we speak of Flourtown as extending from Wheel Pump on the south to Valley Green on the north, as far east or west of the turnpike as the population is found; and the town has grown very rapidly in the past few years. The main cross-roads of the town have long been laid out. Haas lane, Wissahickon avenue and Mill road. There are other cross-streets, since laid out.

The Plymouth Railroad, now leased by the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, crosses the town from east to west. This railroad was built in 1869-70, and has been used principally as a freight road.

The trolley road running along the Bethlehem pike and through the town, was built in 1901, and the first trolley ran from Flourtown to Wheel Pump on the 9th of June, reaching the latter place at 7.25 A.M.; and at 3.30 P.M., on Friday, November 21, 1902, the first car ran through from Flourtown to Allentown; and in the summer of 1903, the cars ran across the tracks of the Plymouth Railroad, from Wheel Pump to Allentown, without change.

Any subsequent history connected with this ancient town is modern, and within the recollection of most of the inhabitants, and it is not our purpose to refer to it in the present paper.

Historical Sketch of the Union Church of Whitemarsh, Montgomery County, Pa.*

By SAMUEL YEAKLE

In preparing this historical sketch of the Union Church of Whitemarsh, we must remember that the name "Union Church" was no doubt assumed at the organization in 1818, because the two congregations, the Lutheran and the Reformed, held joint ownership of the property, but existed as separate church organizations.

The union of the two congregations existed until July 2, 1894, when the sale of the church property to Zion Lutheran Church was confirmed by the Court; the Lutheran congregation purchasing the part of the property consisting of the present front portion, and back far enough to include the ground on which Zion Lutheran now stands, and the ground on which the sheds are located.

The remaining portion of the original tract is still being held as a cemetery under the name of Trustees of the Union Church of Whitemarsh.

The management of the Union Cemetery, which constitutes the only remaining property of the Union Church, is vested in a board of six trustees, three of them being selected from the trustees of each congregation.

The Reformed congregation, after the sale above referred to, erected a church building and parsonage at Fort Washington, known as St. Paul's Reformed Church, where they are at present located.

The Reformed and Lutheran congregations owned and worshipped in the same building for seventy-seven years in

*Read at an outing of the Society, October 6, 1923.

brotherly unity and with commendable good fellowship during that time, and when the time of separation came, it was by mutual agreement, believing that the best interests of both congregations would be better served by the severance of the old union that had so long existed.

We find in the old records that are still extant, that the first movement to organize and build a church was made on the 14th day of June, 1817, at the house of Philip Sellers, in the township of Whitemarsh, by the members of the different churches of Germantown, Philadelphia, and perhaps from the surrounding community, when a committee was appointed to fix upon a place whereon such meeting-house should be erected. Rev. Caspar Wack, of the Reformed Church, was chosen chairman and Jacob Gilbert, of the Lutheran Church, was chosen secretary of this meeting. Resolutions were drawn at this meeting, and afterwards incorporated in the deed of purchase, stipulating that said church building, or meeting-house, as then called, was to be for the use of the Lutheran and Reformed denominations, and to be used and kept in repair jointly by both congregations.

At a meeting held at the house of Philip Sellers, on the 24th of January, 1818, Rev. John C. Baker, of the Lutheran Church, presiding, and Jacob Gilbert, secretary, it was resolved that a committee of four be appointed, to purchase a piece of ground adjoining that which Philip Sellers had presented to the congregations for the erection of a church, and to enclose said ground with a fence. A committee was appointed at this meeting to carry the same into effect; viz., Jacob Gilbert, Henry Scheetz, Christopher Grafly and John Haney. These four men were also chosen, at a meeting held April 17, 1818, as the first trustees. At a meeting held October 8, 1818, in the Union School, in Whitemarsh, the first church officers were elected. At a subsequent meeting in the same year, it was arranged to solicit funds for the erection of the church building.

At the meeting held on January 24, 1818, it was unanimously agreed that the size of the church building should be forty-five feet by thirty-eight feet, as recommended by

the committee on plans, and a committee to superintend the building of the church was appointed.

The committee to solicit subscriptions for the building of the church consisted of Rev. John C. Baker, Lutheran, and Rev. Caspar Wack, Reformed, to be accompanied by Jacob Gilbert, Philip Sellers, Philip Keefer, John Haney, John Katz and John Bitting, names within the memory, perhaps, of some present.

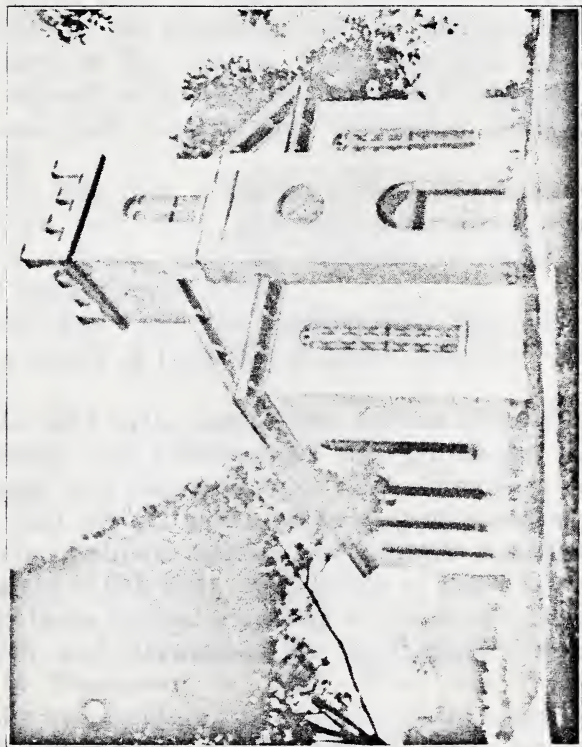
The records show the names of the subscribers and the amounts subscribed towards the building of the first church. In the list appear such names as Aiman, Amey, Bisbing, Bitting, Berkhimer, Conard, Detwiler, Earnest, Faringer, Fitzwater, Harner, Heist, Heydrick, Hocker, Kehr, Kerper, Katz, Lower, Nace, Nash, Ottinger, Peterman, Rittenhouse, Rex, Scheetz, Shafer, Stout, Streeper, Schlater, Van Winkle, Wentz, Yeakle—names still familiar to many.

The cost of the first church, purchase of ground, church furnishing and cost of building, we find to have been \$3,409.20, Henry Scheetz being treasurer.

The deed of conveyance of ground, still in an excellent state of preservation, is dated October 17, 1818, and is from Philip Sellers and Hannah, his wife, in trust, to Jacob Gilbert, Christopher Grafly (Lutheran); and Henry Scheetz and John Haney (Reformed), for two acres of land, extending from the Bethlehem pike to Church road, in the township of Whitemarsh, for a church and burial-ground. While this deed calls for two acres of land, and the purchase price mentioned is \$160.00, yet one acre was donated by Philip Sellers, and the other was really sold for the above-mentioned sum.

The charter for the Union Church was granted, on March 30, 1823, by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and was approved by Joseph Hiester, Governor of Pennsylvania; and the corporate title was The Trustees of the Union Church of Whitemarsh.

A piece of land extending along the south side of the above tract was purchased, April 4, 1853, consisting of three-fourths of an acre and two perches, extending from Bethlehem pike to Church road, from Adam Fries and wife,



UNION CHURCH OF WHITEMARSH
(The original building.)

by the Union School and Library Association, and was afterwards sold to Union Church, Whitemarsh. Another addition to the property was bought in 1876, about five acres for \$2,000, for the enlargement of the cemetery, and extending from Bethlehem pike to church road, on the north side of the original tract. These tracts of land complete the present church property and cemetery adjoining.

Until about 1856 to 1858, the provisions recited in the original deed of the property, and also incorporated in the early by-laws of the church, were observed; then it was mutually agreed to change the method of supporting the pastors, and each congregation thereafter maintained its own pastor.

We also find that a Sunday-school was begun in this church at an early date, and was under direct control of the church officers, and the expenses of same were in charge of these church bodies.

We also find from the records that the choir leader received a salary of from \$15 to \$25 a year for conducting the music.

We also find that, about 1853, certain difficulties arose in the church, not between the denominations, but from other causes, and that a portion of the members bought a property, and maintained a separate organization, known as the Union Sabbath School and Library Association.

It was about this time, or a couple of years later, that a number of these former members of the Union Church left this church and organized the Springfield Presbyterian Church, in Flourtown, in 1857. Thus this Presbyterian church may be considered as a branch of the Union Church, and with the people of this church have long existed friendly relations.

Quoting from the history of the Lutheran congregation, as prepared by Rev. D. M. Sheeleigh for the "History of the East Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church"; "From the beginning to the year 1892 the Lutheran pastors have been the following: Rev. John C. Baker, 1818-1828; Rev. Benjamin Keller, 1829-1835; Rev. C. W. Shaeffer, 1835-1841; Rev. Fredk. R. Anspach, 1841-1850; Rev. Wm.

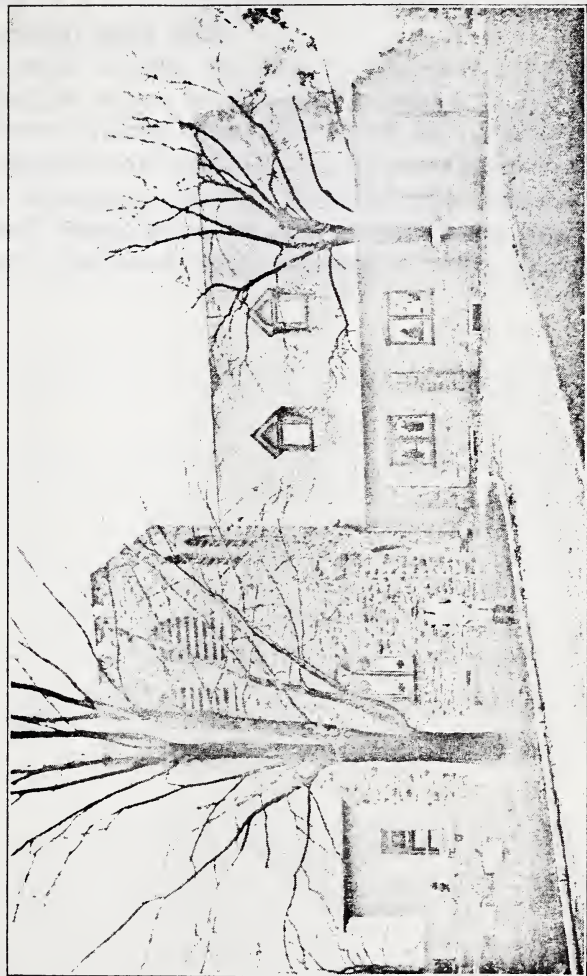
H. Smith, 1850-1852; Rev. Prof. Henry Haverstick and Rev. Luther E. Albert, supplied about three months in 1852; Rev. Wm. M. Baum, 1852-1854; Rev. David Swope, 1855-1856. The last named was the first pastor settled in the place, the church having previously been served successively by pastors of St. Michael's, Germantown, and St. Peter's, of Barren Hill. This was the beginning of the pastoral charge composed of the Whitemarsh and Upper Dublin congregations. Then followed Benjamin Suessérrott, 1850-1857; Rev. Lewis Hippee, 1857 to 1859; Rev. Ed. J. Koons, 1860-1862; Rev. George Sill, 1863 to 1869, and Rev. Matthias Sheeligh, D.D., April 27, 1869, to the separation of the two congregations and one year later, twenty-six years in the pastorate."

Rev. C. S. Santee, present pastor of St. Paul's Reformed Church, of Fort Washington, which congregation was formerly a part of the Union Church of Whitemarsh, has given the following list of pastors who served the Reformed Congregation from its beginning until the separation: Rev. Caspar Wack, 1817-1826; supplies, 1826 to 1831; Albert Helfenstein, 1831 to 1837; Rev. Osborne, 1837 to 1838; Rev. C. W. Shaeffer, the Lutheran pastor, supplied 1838 and 1839; Samuel Helfenstein, 1839 to 1842; Jacob Helfenstein, 1842 to 1844; William E. Cornwell, 1844 to 1850; Jacob B. Keller, 1850 to 1855; Rev. Samuel G. Boeling, 1858 to 1868; supplies, from 1868 to 1869; Rev. George D. Wolff, 1869 to 1871; Rev. R. Leighton Gerhart, from 1871 to 1873; Rev. J. D. Detrich, 1874 to 1894—twenty years as pastor.

From the records we find, and would mention as a matter of interest, that Revs. Anspach and Helfenstein each received \$131.12 per year for their services as pastor.

In early years, some of the church services were conducted in the German language, but later the services were entirely in the English language.

The original church was built of stone, and had galleries extending along the front and sides of the church. The writer still remembers these galleries, but they were removed, in 1861, when the church was remodelled, and con-



UNION CHURCH OF WHITEMARSH
(Present building. Part of original building shows at left.)

siderable change was made in the appearance of the building.

In 1882, some alterations and changes were made; as also, in 1896. In 1848, shedding for horses and carriages was erected at a cost of \$347.83. These were later removed and the present shed built.

In this brief sketch, we have endeavored to give some of the principal events in the earlier history of our church, which we trust will be of interest to all who desire to know how this church was originally started in this locality, and remains a landmark in the neighborhood where church services and worship of Almighty God have been maintained and continued uninterruptedly until the present time.

Philadelphia Silversmiths *

By SAMUEL W. WOODHOUSE, JR.

Soon after the Quakers settled on the banks of the Delaware, we find some of Penn's colonists working in the white metal. Three of these silversmiths are mentioned in Penn's manuscript account book preserved in the Philosophical Society's Library; Caesar Ghiselin, who died in 1733, Johannes Nys (or in his French form, John Denys), and Francis Richardson, who was born in New York in 1681, and removed to Philadelphia in 1690, where he died in 1729, the first native-born American silversmith in Penn's colony.

Caesar Ghiselin went to Annapolis, where he engaged in other occupations, and some doubt may reasonably be expressed as to his producing silverware there after his removal, though his son William was also a silversmith.

Francis Richardson was the father of Joseph Richardson; born in 1711; married Mary Allen in 1748, and died in 1784. He had two sons, Joseph and Nathaniel. Joseph became Assayer of the United States Mint, in 1808. They had their shop on the west side of Front street, below Walnut, and a country place down the Neck (in the vicinity of Morris street).

Much of the silverware found among the Quaker settlers in the Delaware Valley was made by the Richardson family. As the town grew and the trade improved, other silversmiths came into competition. To mention some of the prominent ones: John Lepelier; Nathaniel Coleman, at Burlington, born 1765, died in 1842; at Wilmington, Bancroft Woodcock. The most distinguished of the Philadelphia smiths probably were the Syngs.

*Read before the Society, February 22, 1924.



HOME OF PHILIP SYNG
(Photo by Charles R. Barker.)

Philip, the father, had been a silversmith in Cork, though it seems he emigrated from Bristol, England, bringing with him his young son Philip. The father, like Ghiselin, went to Annapolis, where he became an innkeeper; but his son, the distinguished member of the family, worked in silver during his long and useful life, producing what is probably, historically, the most important piece of silver in the American Colonies. In 1753, he made for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the ink-stand used in the State House, from which the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were signed. This, as you know, continues to stand on the Speaker's desk in Independence Hall.

Syng was a friend and associate of Benjamin Franklin, for whom he made many apparatuses used by Franklin in his electrical experiments. He was a member of Franklin's *junto*, a founding member of the Library Company of Philadelphia, a contributor to the Pennsylvania Hospital—in fact, he shared in most of the public enterprises of his long life.¹

¹ Philip Syng was for some years a resident of Lower Merion township, now in Montgomery county. An advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, issue of September 23, 1772, says:

“RICHARD HUMPHREYS, Goldsmith,

Having taken the house in which PHILIP SYNG lately dwelt, hereby informs his friends and the public, that he now carries on the GOLD-SMITH'S Business, in all its branches, at the aforesaid place, a few doors below the Coffee-house;

RICHARD HUMPHREYS.

The subscriber, having lately removed into Upper Merion township, hereby informs his friends and former customers, that they may be supplied as usual, at his late dwelling, by the above-mentioned RICHARD HUMPHREYS, whom he hereby recommends to them;

PHILIP SYNG.”

Of course, *Upper Merion* was a slip for *Lower Merion*! In 1774, Thomas Potts, Jr., writing to Benjamin Franklin, says, “Good Mr. Philip Syng has retired into the country about ten miles from the city, where I

Richard Humphreys, born in the island of Tortola in 1750, was apprenticed to Philip Syng, became a very successful silversmith, and died in Philadelphia in 1832. He left ten thousand dollars, more than a tithe of his estate, to trustees to "found an institution for instructing the descendants of the African race in school learning, in the various branches of mechanical trades, in agriculture, and to prepare as teachers." The outgrowth is the Normal School at Cheney, Pennsylvania.

The first work guiding the popular mind with data of the Goldsmiths' Company was published by William Chaffers in 1863, enabling the public to ascertain the precise date of manufacture by the sign manual of the Goldsmiths Company, stamped on plate when sent to be assayed. That this was a popular venture is shown by its going through six editions in ten years. The price of old plate rose enormously in consequence of its actual date being easily and certainly ascertained. The designation "plate" means, strictly speaking, wrought silver, and is derived from the Spanish word, "Plata"; hence, as applied in "gold plate" and "silver plate" it is a pleonasm. "Plated" means, actually, metal covered with plates of gold, silver, etc.

In America there was no compulsory marking of silverware, and nothing was known of American makers until attention was drawn to the matter by Mr. Francis Bigelow and his associates in New England, who brought together the exhibition of old American silver at the Massachusetts Museum of the Fine Arts, in Boston, in 1906. This was succeeded by the exhibition in New York, Hudson-Fulton Anniversary, and has been carried on by numerous special exhibitions held throughout the country, the knowledge of

frequently see him." (Memorial of Thomas Potts, Junior, by Mrs. Thomas Potts James, p. 125.)

The country home of Philip Syng was within a stone's throw of the Ardmore station of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He purchased it July 13, 1772, and sold it March 31, 1783. (Phila. Deed Books "I" 12, p. 41, and D 6, p. 417; also, *Pa. Mag. of Hist. and Biog.*, Vol. LII., p. 214.)—Ed.

the smiths and the marks they used growing like compound interest.

Joseph Lowndes, who advertised from 1780 until 1816, from his shop, 133 South Front street, by the Drawbridge, made, among other things, the tea service for Joshua Humphreys, the architect of the six vessels, "Constitution," "Constellation," etc., the first vessels to be built by the Government for the American navy.

Thomas Shields was one of his competitors living nearby in the "Seventh house from the Drawbridge in Front," while George Dowig and Abram Dubois, in Second street, near Arch, were his neighbors. John David was a son of Peter David, French Huguenot in New York, and came to Philadelphia, where he worked as a silversmith, and died in 1794. Among the Presbyterians, John McMullin became a very prominent silversmith, working from the close of the Revolution until the end of his long life in 1843.

Note: The following reference works may be found of value in connection with Dr. Woodhouse's paper:

American Silversmiths and Their Marks; by Stephen G. C. Ensko. New York, 1927.

List of Philadelphia Silversmiths and Allied Aritificers, From 1682 to 1850; by Maurice Brix. Phila., 1920.

A List of Early American Silversmiths and Their Marks; by Hollis French. New York, 1917.

Pennsylvania Museum Bulletin No. 68; June, 1921.

Report of Annalist for 1924 *

By GILBERT S. JONES

The record of our county's material welfare during the twelve months, March 1, 1923, to February 29, 1924, without embellishment, merely reduced to the printed page for the benefit of future researchers, reveals a progress and development that reflects community-wide prosperity. Our people have applied themselves, with characteristic enterprise, to the tasks of the year, and the accomplishments have been achieved safely and solidly as is the custom of Montgomery Countians.

During 1923, Montgomery county market finished products of the manufacturing industry valued at over \$175,000,000.

The county ranked sixth in the state for the past twelve months, with a corn crop valued at \$2,213,692, yielding an average price of \$1.03 per bushel.

The wheat crop totaled 423,930 bushels, valued at \$454,665.80, with a yield averaging 20.4 bushels per acre.

Records of forest preservation show that we planted 157,391 trees in Montgomery county in 1923.

Bank clearings for the entire county are not available, but they were enormous, as the Federal Reserve Bank reports they reached \$48,158,087.79 in Norristown alone.

All the import of the figures of this data encourages us, notwithstanding the regrettable fact, as ascertained by a

*Read before the Society, April 26, 1924.

rural survey, that there are more than 10,000 acres of idle farm land in the county.

Population is now over 200,000; 1577 marriage licenses were issued, and births exceeded deaths by a ratio of 7 to 4.

It cost more than \$1,000,000 to operate the governmental machinery and official public affairs of the county for twelve months.

It was ascertained, further, that our largest borough, Norristown, stands thirty-sixth in industrial importance among eighty-nine towns of the state.

It is interesting to note, the while much attention is being directed to public institutions, that Dr. Ellen C. Potter, Chief of the State Department of Public Welfare, publicly states that the Montgomery County Prison is a model penal institution, while the State Hospital, located within our borders, was managed efficiently during the year, at a maintenance cost of about \$1,000,000.

It may be deemed worthy of note here, that on November 8, 1923, the first *all-steel* train to be run on the Perkiomen Branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, passed over that system.

No other interest is so indicative of material progress in our community as the real estate field. Record prices have marked the year in town and country. The high water mark in the business section of Norristown was reached in the sale of 42-44 East Main street for \$90,000, yielding \$3,600 per front foot. Justin Pagel, shoe merchant, is the new owner.

A large residential realty transaction involved \$80,000 for the "Norris," an apartment house at 611 Swede street, the property bringing its former owner, L. I. Rossiter, \$1,450 a front foot.

In productive farm land, the record sale for the year, per acre, was \$300 for acreage of forty and over, where

land is used strictly for farming. Plots of nine acres, yet not adjacent to a town, brought \$1000 per acre. Real estate's assessed valuation in the county stands at \$175,770,310, and in Norristown, \$20,500,000.

These annals are intended to be a periodical publication of transactions, or record of events, and in keeping with the definition of the work, should be properly set forth in chronological order. Although we are familiar with the events of our day, a moment may be spared that we refresh our minds as we place in the record that which may be useful information for reference.

1924

- Mar. Hon. A. S. Swartz retired from Montgomery County Bench.
- Mar. 17. New Junior High School, Norristown, designated as Thomas J. Stewart High School. Senior High School named A. D. Eisenhower School.
- Mar. 31. Dr. L. W. Hainer completed twenty-fifth year of his pastorate at Calvary Baptist Church, Norristown.
- Mar. 31. Trinity Lutheran Church, Norristown, cancelled debt of \$28,500.
- Apr. 4. St. Peter's Church, North Wales, celebrated centennial.
- Apr. 5. First Bay in Porch of Allies, Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, given by Henry M. Justi.
- Apr. 6. Tornado swept over section of county, including Valley Forge and West Norriton township, doing great property damage. No fatalities.
- Apr. 6. Scheerer Memorial Library, Pottstown, dedicated.
- Apr. 9. St. James P. E. Church, Evansburg, elected women on Vestry. First instance in Pennsylvania Diocese.

- Apr. 16. Hon. J. Ambler Williams named by Governor Pinchot as Judge of Thirty-eighth Judicial District, to succeed Hon. A. S. Swartz, retired.
- Apr. 18. Announced that Elkins Park is to have a new \$40,000 post office.
- Apr. 30. Montgomery Traction Company, operating trolley line from Trooper to Harleysville, sold to holders of first mortgage bonds.
- May 1. Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, commemorated 175th anniversary.
- May 5. Contract to rebuild Grand Opera House, Norristown, awarded F. R. Heavner for \$143,000. Entire cost of work, including furnishing, to be \$223,000.
- May 6. New home of Young Men's Hebrew Association, 710 Swede street, Norristown, dedicated.
- May 14. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Norristown, celebrated fiftieth anniversary. Rev. G. Julius Hoepfner, pastor in charge for twenty-five years.
- May 30. Memorial Markers to World War men unveiled at Bridgeport, Jeffersonville, Ardmore and other points in county.
- June 7. "Music Week" observed generally throughout county.
- June 9. Supreme Grand Tall Cedar John A. Longacre, of Norristown, initiated President Warren G. Harding into the order at Milford, Delaware.
- June 14. Montgomery County Farm Bureau opened preventive campaign against Japanese beetle.
- June 25. Old St. Peter's, in the Great Valley, observed anniversary by unveiling bronze tablet to Patrick

Anderson, born 1719. Paper read by Mrs. Josephine Anderson Knipe, of Norristown, lineal descendant in fifth generation.

- July 3. Building at N. W. corner Main and Cherry streets, Norristown, purchased by First National Bank for \$61,000.
- July 4. General Gourand, French World War hero, spoke at Valley Forge.
- July 10. Ursinus College Library, Collegeville, dedicated.
- Aug. 23. Rev. Will H. Houghton resigned pastorate of First Baptist Church, Norristown.
- Aug. 23. Pay of jurors increased from \$3.00 per day to \$4.00, according to Act of Legislature.
- Aug. 25. 76-78 East Main street, owned by L. E. Taubel, sold for \$80,000, an average of \$2,790 per front foot.
- Sept. 1. 6,000 attended annual picnic at Old Goshenhoppen Church.
- Sept. 4. Mrs. Mary J. Bean Nichols, life-long resident of Valley Forge, was tendered reception on her ninetieth birthday anniversary by the Community Club of that village.
- Sept. 5. Pine Run Farm, estate of late Henry Pratt McKean, sold to incorporators of the Pine Run Country Club.
- Sept. 5. New Penn Square School dedicated. Speakers were President Judge John Faber Miller and County Superintendent J. Horace Landis. Cost of building, \$22,271.
- Sept. 10. Construction of building at 57-59 East Penn street, to house the printing and publishing business of The Norristown Register Company. Com-

pany prepares to issue a daily newspaper, the "Norristown Evening Register."

- Sept. 11. Contract for new Y. M. C. A. awarded, for \$163,243.
- Sept. 17. "Constitution Week" observed throughout county. Observance instituted by Citizenship Committee of the American Bar Association. Its purpose—the study of all phases of the Constitution of the United States.
- Sept. 29. Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Trinity, Norristown, celebrated seventy-fifth anniversary.
- Oct. 1. Charity Lodge, No. 190, A. F. and A. M., celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. Feature of celebration was the burning of the mortgage on the Masonic Temple on Main street, Norristown.
- Oct. 1. New Navy dirigible ("Shenandoah") passed over Montgomery county in non-stop flight from Lakehurst, N. J., to St. Louis, Mo.
- Oct. 3. Norristown Civic Club opens twelfth season. Mrs. Irwin Fisher enters second year as president.
- Oct. 6. Annual Fall Outing of Historical Society of Montgomery County. Historic spots visited in Whitemarsh and Springfield townships, with luncheon and public meeting in Zion Lutheran Church, Whitemarsh.
- Oct. 11. Norristown Branch of American Red Cross reports receipt of \$7,093.32 for Japanese Earthquake Sufferers' Relief.
- Oct. 19. James Lees & Sons Company shipped 1,000 hanks of yarn to Japan, as gift to earthquake sufferers.
- Oct. 20. "Daisy Day" realized \$1,862.67 for Associated Charities.

- Oct. 27. New home of Good Will Fire Co., Bridgeport, dedicated. Model fire house. Cost, \$30,000.
- Oct. 30. Degree of LL.D. conferred by Lafayette College on Dr. George Leslie Omwake, president of Ursinus College.
- Nov. 1. Norristown Lodge, No. 213, Loyal Order of Moose, wiped out debt of \$50,000 on their home, 624 West Main street.
- Nov. 3. George R. Kite, vice-president First National Bank, Norristown, completed fifty years of service with that institution.
- Nov. 7. Co-operation of Borough Council makes possible "white way" lighting for Main street. Installation nearly complete.
- Nov. 12. New headquarters of George N. Althouse Post, American Legion, on Airy street, Norristown, gift of people of borough, dedicated.
- Nov. 13. Joseph B. McDevitt purchased former "Daily Register" Building, 7 West Main street, from B. E. Block & Bros., for \$40,000.
- Nov. 20. Tenth Annual Show of Montgomery Farm Bureau, at Borough Hall, most comprehensive ever held. Inter-State Milk Producers' Association co-operated at the exhibit.
- Dec. 1. After service of thirty-five years, the ladder truck of Fairmount Fire Company was retired from borough service, and donated to State Hospital. The faithful horses, "Dolly" and "Babe," went with the apparatus.
- Dec. 5. Branch of Lions Club, a national organization, functioning in eight hundred cities, organized in Norristown.
- Dec. 17. Mrs. Mary Griffith, Trappe, celebrated one hundredth birthday anniversary.

1925

- Jan. 1. Conshohocken Trust Company opened for business in new building, Second and Fayette streets. Capitalized at \$125,000.
- Jan. 2. Old school building, on ground of St. James Church, Evansburg, dedicated as Mortuary Chapel.
- Jan. 2. Valley Forge Chapter, D. A. R., endorsed erection of Washington Hall, at Washington Memorial, in honor of Washington and heroes of Revolution.
- Jan. 2. Donation Day for Montgomery Hospital yielded \$3,744 in cash and \$1,000 in supplies.
- Jan. 2. Hon. J. Ambler Williams qualified for the ten-year term as additional law judge of Montgomery County Courts.
- Jan. 14. Norristown Trust Company and Penn Trust Company, of Norristown, merged under name Norristown-Penn Trust Company, with total resources of \$20,000,000.
- Jan. 14. O. F. Lenhardt elected president of Bridgeport National Bank.
- Jan. 25. Violet Swartley, of Norristown, rescued two men from the icy waters of the Schuylkill river.
- Jan. 25. Bill introduced in Congress to provide \$75,000 addition to Norristown Post Office.
- Jan. 30. William L. Jenkins, of Gwynedd, appointed Consul-in-Charge of India, with headquarters at Calcutta.
- Jan. Ownership of capital stock of the Montgomery Trust Company, the oldest trust company in the county, sold by Louis M. Childs and associates to Horace C. Coleman and associates. Old management retired, and new officers elected.

- Feb. 2. Valley Forge and Port Kennedy property owners, it is announced, get distribution of \$330,411.13 for land taken by state for Valley Forge Park.
- Feb. 3. Rev. Abner James Davies celebrated twenty-second anniversary as pastor of First Baptist Church, Conshohocken.
- Feb. 8. Thomas Jefferson Window placed in Washington Memorial Chapel. Eleventh window in history of chapel.
- Feb. 8. Fourteenth anniversary of founding of Boy Scouts appropriately observed in county.
- Feb. 12. Announcement that total expenses of Y. W. C. A. for 1923 were \$7,067.87, and receipts \$7,245.12.
- Feb. 12. Frank P. Croft, Port Kennedy, elected President of new fraternal order, Loyal Sons of America, organized to combat the Klu Klux Klan.
- Feb. 14. Montgomery county tax rate increased from 2 mills to 3 mills.
- Feb. 14. Degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred by Ursinus College on Rev. W. O. Fegley, of Trappe.
- Feb. 14. Centennary of birth of General Winfield Scott Hancock observed. Commemoration by Hancock Fire Company, Norristown, public schools, Rotary Club and others.

FIRE RECORD

1923

- Mar. 5. \$50,000 loss at Fatlands Protectory.
- Mar. 29. \$60,000 loss at Emmers Hosiery Mills, Royersford.
- Mar. 29. Garage of Theo. Keyser, at Kulpsville. Loss, \$35,000.
- May 24. Harry Street Grade School, Conshohocken. Loss, \$75,000.

- June 16. \$15,000 fire, Three Tuns Inn.
- June 16. Becker's stable, at Kneedler. Loss, \$25,000.
- July 1. \$30,000 loss at Orange Home, near Hatboro.
- Sept. 26. Valuable records and \$50,000 property loss, Ehret Magnesia Company, Port Kennedy.
- Oct. 4. House and barn of John Giest, at Perkiomen Junction. Loss, \$15,000.
- Oct. 4. Feed and fertilizer plant of Jacob Tinley & Son, Linfield. Loss, \$50,000.
- Nov. 23. Old covered wooden bridge over Perkiomen, at Schwenksville.
- Nov. 27. \$20,000 blaze at Trooper, destroying barn and contents. Owner, Mrs. Lucy Ludwig.
- Dec. 3. Plant of Perkiomen Hosiery Mills, at Schwenksville. Loss, \$25,000.

1924

- Feb. 18. \$25,000 damage at plant of Saquoit Shirt Company, Norristown.

DEATH RECORD

1923

- Feb. 23. Samuel Roberts, president Grater-Bodey Company, Norristown, and prominent citizen.
- Mar. Thomas Marshall McCarter, veteran of Civil War, aged 74 years.
- Mar. 16. Mrs. Mathilda McDermody, aged 101 years. Oldest resident of Conshohocken.
- Mar. 16. W. H. Rodenbough, chief of police of Norristown for more than 35 years.
- Mar. 16. Isaiah Detwiler, Ironbridge, aged 80 years.

- Mar. 16. Mrs. Elizabeth Tracy, of Conshohocken, aged 81 years.
- Apr. 10. Jesse Thomas, road supervisor, Lower Providence township, aged 57 years.
- Apr. 11. Harry Kremer, jeweler, Norristown. Victim of sleeping sickness.
- Apr. 14. Elijah Brooke, of King-of-Prussia.
- Apr. 17. Francis W. Lawler, of Trooper, last soldier to die abroad during World War, buried with military honors in St. Patrick's Cemetery, on sixth anniversary of entrance of United States into World War.
- Apr. 21. John S. Geller, aged 78 years.
- Apr. 27. Lewis G. Stritzinger, founder of Stritzinger Baking Company, aged 60 years. Norristown.
- Apr. 30. Israel M. Aker, Civil War veteran. Aged 84 years.
- May 4. Evan B. Kepler, of Souderton. Aged 78 years.
- May 5. Benjamin Quillman, prominent business man of Norristown, aged 76 years.
- May 7. Henry Pagel, oldest merchant in Norristown in point of continuous service, aged 65 years.
- June 8. Miss Rachel Rittenhouse, aged 89 years. Member of historic family.
- June 16. Albert Pigeon, hosiery manufacturer of Lansdale and Norristown, aged 41 years.
- June 16. H. H. Burdan, ice cream manufacturer of Pottstown, aged 53 years.
- June 18. Mrs. Angelica Dyson, of Pennsburg, aged 101 years. Oldest member of St. Mark's Lutheran Congregation.

- June 19. Mrs. B. Amanda Yeakel, Plymouth township, aged 92 years.
- June 19. Mrs. Margaret Andrews, of Port Kennedy. Aged 82 years.
- June 28. Remanders Scheetz, aged 76 years. Engaged in grocery business in Norristown more than 50 years.
- July 5. Andrew Heiser, of Trooper, aged 81 years.
- July 6. Richard H. Bate, aged 78 years. Prominent resident of Conshohocken.
- Aug. 3. John Pugh, of Conshohocken, aged 85 years. Banker and Civil War veteran.
- Aug. 15. Mrs. Joseph Lees, in her 90th year. Widow of founder of James Lees and Sons.
- Aug. 28. Hon. A. S. Swartz, aged 74 years; five months after his retirement from the bench.
- Sept. 20. Dr. E. A. Krusen, founder of Riverview Hospital.
- Oct. 4. Montgomery Smith Longaker, of Limerick Center, former postmaster of Pottstown, aged 80 years.
- Nov. 8. Rev. J. Kennedy Moorehouse, aged 44 years. Thirteen years rector of Calvary P. E. Church, Conshohocken.
- Nov. 17. Dr. J. R. V. Wolfe, Norristown, X-Ray specialist. Aged 42 years.
- Nov. 17. Dr. David Rittenhouse Beaver, of Conshohocken. Oldest practicing physician in county. Aged 81 years.
- Nov. 25. Mrs. Lydia Ann Lee, one of oldest residents of county, aged 90 years, Norristown. Granddaughter of Capt. Bartholemeu, of General Anthony Wayne's staff, in Revolution.

- Dec. 14. David H. Krause, aged 83 years, oldest watch-maker in county.
- Dec. 16. Joseph Fornance, oldest attorney-at-law, president of Montgomery County Bar Association, and for many years president of Historical Society of Montgomery County, aged 82 years.
- Dec. 19. Miss Hannah Dignan, aged 76 years. Smallest woman in county, 36 inches in height.
- Dec. 24. Samuel Coates, aged 82 years, one of oldest and best known residents of Conshohocken.
- Dec. 24. Lewis Rockey, aged 66 years. Veteran news carrier. Served newspapers for 57 years.

1924

- Jan. 11. William H. Morris, steel magnate, at Villa Nova.
- Jan. 16. Lemuel Roberts, for 11 years warden of county prison.
- Jan. 19. Montgomery Evans, aged 71 years. One of foremost members of Montgomery County Bar, and president of Norristown Trust Company.
- Jan. 30. Dr. John N. Jacobs, first controller of county, and pioneer citizen of Lansdale, aged 86 years. Physician, Civil War veteran, politician and banker.
- Feb. 4. Mrs. Mary Griffith, of Trappe, who celebrated 100th birthday anniversary on December 17th last.
- Feb. 4. Mrs. Anna Thomas Ramsey, aged 93 years.
- Feb. 5. James J. Carr, realtor and insurance broker, of Norristown.
- Feb. 11. Isaac N. Carvalho, aged 74 years, cigar manufacturer, Norristown.
- Feb. 13. Mrs. Ann Louisa Swartz, widow of late Judge A. S. Swartz, Norristown.

The Harry Family*

By MRS. JOHN W. HARRY

The first record we have of the Harrys in Pennsylvania is in a deed which contains the following: "Richard Davies, gent., of Welshpool, Wales, purchased 5000 acres of the Welsh Tract in Merion,¹ Province of Pennsylvania. He sold 300 acres of this tract, in Radnor, to James Price, gent., of Mothvey, Carmarthenshire, June 19, 1682. James Price sold the same to David Price, and the said David sold the 300 acres to Harry Rees, gent., the present possessor thereof in ye "township of Radnor." The Deed is dated July 30, 1682. On the 28th, 12th mo., 1683, David Evan sold 100 acres to Harry Rees, of Radnor.

A deed granted to the said Harry Rees, 27th of 11th mo., 1686, the said land, "by which he became possessed of 200 acres; being Resurveyed is 238 acres, and is 18 acres Over, for which he pays 6s. 8d. per acre as the Rest." We find, in the same deeds, his name would be Henry Rees, and again, Harry Rees. Among the subscribers to the Susquehanna Land Company, preserved at the Historical Society

*Read before the Society, April 26, 1924.

¹ Penn's custom in selling land was to convey a *right* to a definite acreage, "rough and unseparated" (i. e., uncleared and unlocated). This right might be sold over and over again, until it came into the hands of some person who really intended to settle, and who would then have his land located and surveyed. The purchase of Richard Davies, made 14/15 September, 1681, was for 5000 acres, *unlocated*, but he, in turn, disposed of parcels of this right to intending settlers, who then had their land located wherever it suited the Land Office to do so. (See Phila. Deed Books F 8, p. 23; H 16 p. 228.)

The Welsh Tract included not only a portion of Merion, but also all of Haverford, Radnor and other townships.—Ed.

of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, about the year 1790, we find that Harry Rees, of Radnor, subscribed 2£ 10s.

An abstract of his will, dated Feb. 1, 1704/5; proved June 30, 1705: after leaving bequests to his daughters Gwenleain and Margaret, he leaves his plantation of 300 acres in Radnor, with all chattels, &c, &c, to his only son, David Harry. His wife Elizabeth is to be kept by his son according to the station in which she has heretofore lived. He appoints his son, David Harry, executor, and signs his name *Harry Rees*.

When a son was named for his father, in Wales, the name was reversed, but the son's children retained the family name.² Rees Harry, gentleman, of Cumcawlid, of Carmarthenshire, Wales, was the father of Harry Rees, of Radnor, in the Welsh Tract.

David Harry, of Radnor, and Lydia, daughter of David Powell, of the township of Bristol, were married in the Friends' Meeting-house at Germantown, "ye second day of ye twelfth month, Sixteen hundred and Ninety and nine." Among the numerous witnesses present, and signers of their wedding certificate, we find the names of his parents, Harry and Elizabeth Rees, and his sisters, Gwendlian and Margaret Harry; the bride's parents, David and Gwen Powell; her sister Mary, and her brothers, William, Samuel and Rowland.

Gwendlian Harry was married in the Radnor Meeting-house, 5th mo., 3d, 1701, to Joseph Evans, of Radnor. Margaret Harry married without the consent of the Meeting. She made her acknowledgment, which was accepted, 8th mo., 6th, 1746. Her husband's name is not given in the Meeting records.

² Until the Welshman adopted a surname, he was known by a combination name, which consisted of his own Christian name, followed by that of his father, with the word *ap* ("son of") between. The *ap*, however, was sometimes omitted, as in this case, where Rees Harry was evidently Rees *ap* Harry ("son of Harry"), and Harry Rees was Harry *ap* Rees ("son of Rees"). The supposed reversing of the name was quite unconscious, and resulted only when a boy was named for his *grandfather*. Ed.

David Harry owned other land in Radnor besides the 300 acres he inherited from his father, Harry Rees, according to the index of deeds in the Recorder-of-Deeds Office, Philadelphia. In various legal documents he is described as "gentleman," a rather unusual distinction in those days, when most of the settlers had some occupation. He was in the Pennsylvania Assembly as a representative, and was appointed Justice of the Peace and Courts. Few men were bred to the law in those days; the colonists chose, or appointment was made of, the best and wisest among them, to hold the Courts.

David Harry purchased, June 17, 1700, from Thomas Farmer, 1250 acres of land in Whitemarsh township, Philadelphia county (now Conshohocken); the land started about where Plymouth Creek empties into the canal; then down the river Schuylkill toward Spring Mill, and from the river up to the line of Plymouth township. This land was called by the Indians "Umbilicamenca" (meaning a high hill). What is now known as Matson's ford, was originally called the David Harry ford, and is so marked in the old road maps. David sold off parts of this plantation, but reserving a large portion for himself; later on he divided 500 acres between two of his sons, John and Rees. David deeded his tract of land in Radnor, which comprised 300 acres, to his son Samuel. When a survey for the Lancaster road, extending to Chester County Line, was taken, July 20, 1741, it passed the Radnor meeting-house, and the lane and house of Samuel Harry.

Just when David and his family removed from Radnor to his plantation in Whitemarsh is not known; they were members of Radnor Meeting. He was identified with the founding of the Plymouth Meeting, coming frequently from Radnor to attend its meetings. He was one of its early trustees, and on many important committees. David Harry presented a certificate to the Plymouth Meeting for himself and family, from Haverford Monthly meeting, dated 3d mo., 25th, 1725. He was appointed an overseer in Plymouth Meeting, 1st mo., 29th, 1726; his wife, also, was appointed an overseer in that meeting, 2d mo., 22d, 1726. David died

in 1760; his will is recorded in the Register-of-Wills Office, Philadelphia. Children of David and Lydia (Powell) Harry were born in Radnor:

Elizabeth, born 3d mo., 19th, 1701, married in Radnor Meeting-house, in 1722, William, the son of Rees and Martha (Aubrey) Thomas, of Radnor.

Samuel, born 6th mo., 29th, 1702, married, in Radnor Meeting-house, 3d mo., 7th, 1724, Elizabeth, daughter of Rees and Martha (Aubrey) Thomas, of Radnor.

Rees, born 4th mo., 3d, 1704. We will speak of his marriage later on.

Mary, born 5th mo., 12th, 1706, married, in Plymouth Meeting-house, 8th mo., 20th, 1731, Abraham Daws, Jr., of Plymouth township. He built a beautiful colonial house, which they called Dawsfield. This house is still standing, near Ambler.

David, born 10th mo., 9th, 1708, was married in Christ Church, Philadelphia, July 7, 1730, to Hannah Humphreys; their children were baptized and married in that church.

John married, in Gwynedd Meeting-house, 10th mo., 25th, 1744, Barbara Evans, of Gwynedd. A few years after their marriage he died. His widow requested a certificate of removal from that meeting to Haverford Meeting, 10th mo., 28th, 1755, for herself and children.

On 7th mo., 26th, 1727, Rees, son of David and Lydia (Powell) Harry, requested a certificate for marriage, with Mary, daughter of Rees and Sarah (Meredith) Price, of Merion. On 10th mo., 12th, 1727, they were married in the Haverford Meeting-house. It was a large wedding.

Rees Harry purchased 540 acres of land in Gwynedd; this plantation was situated on the westerly side of Gwynedd; it was over a mile in length, and a half-mile in breadth. Near the eastern bank of the Wissahickon, which flowed through his plantation, Rees built a fine mansion; there he took his bride; in that home they reared four sons: Benjamin, John, David, and Rees, Jr., and four daughters: Lydia, Sarah, Jane, and Ann. The sons were in the Revolutionary War. Benjamin, David, Ann and Jane did not marry. Lydia married, in Gwynedd Meeting-house, 12th mo., 2d, 1753,

Musgrave Evans, of Philadelphia, son of Evan Evans, of Gwynedd.

Sarah married George Roberts, 2 mo., 7th, 1753. Rees, Jr., married Ellin Roberts (widow). We will speak of John Harry's marriage later on.

Rees Harry died 12th mo., 22d, 1787. He and his wife, with most of their children, are buried at Gwynedd.

Mary (Price) Harry, wife of Rees, was the granddaughter of Edward and Mably Price, who were among the first settlers in Merion, coming to Pennsylvania in 1682, two months before William Penn. They were ministers in the Society of Friends, and gave the ground on which was built the Merion Meeting-house. The first meeting-house was built of logs, in 1683, the present meeting-house of stone, in 1695. It is the oldest original house of worship in Pennsylvania.³ Old Swedes Church, Philadelphia, antedates the meeting-house, but their present church was not built until 1700. Across the field from the meeting-house stood the old Price homestead, used by Lord Cornwallis as his headquarters during the Revolutionary War. What is now Brookhurst avenue, was originally the lane which led from the road to the house.

The Friends who settled in the Welsh Tract (which comprised 40,000 acres) were of the best and oldest families of Wales. They were well educated, speaking Latin and English as well as their native tongue. Edward and Mably Price both traced their descent from the first Saxon chief, or king, mentioned in Welsh history, Cedric, in the year 442.

³ Authorities differ as to the date of the building of Merion Meeting-house. In Bean's "History of Montgomery County," William J. Buck says (p. 928): "The early Welsh were nearly all Friends, and are known to have held worship in this vicinity, *at the house of Hugh Roberts*, as early at least as the Fourth Month, 1684. According to the researches of the late Dr. George Smith, they built at first a temporary structure of wood in 1695, which stood until 1713, when its place was supplied by the present substantial stone edifice, which was completed in the fall of that year."—Ed.

In Fairbairn's Book of "Crests of the Leading Families of Great Britain and Ireland," we find the names of Harry, Price, Powell, Meredith and Davis, of Wales.

The Friends in Merion in the Welsh Tract, wrote a letter to William Penn, complaining that the English were encroaching on their land. Penn wrote at once to Thomas Holme, his Surveyor-General, that faith must be kept with the Welsh Friends. David Powell, a Welshman, and a Deputy Surveyor-General, was appointed to re-survey this tract of land, which he did, in 1684. He was the father of Lydia, wife of David Harry. He purchased 1,100 acres of this land while in Wales, in 1681, and after coming to the province of Pennsylvania, obtained 1000 acres more. (In 1706 he was the surveyor, with Deputies under him.)

This tract of land was called Merionith, named for Merionithshire, which is one of the most ancient shires in Wales. In Cymric language, it signifies "the earth, land or possession of Merion."

A letter written by one of the settlers in Merion to a relative in Wales, states, "We have most rare timber here, I have not seen the like in all these parts, the end of each lot will be on the river as large or larger than the Dye (Dee) in Bala (Wales) it is called the Skool Kill, where we are to settle, and water enough for mills. There are stones enough for building and all purposes to be had at the falls of the Skool Kill. Indians bring venison to our door for six pence ye quarter."

Mary (Price) Harry was also the grand-daughter of David Meredith, a Quaker preacher, who settled in Radnor, in the Welsh Tract, in 1683, and owned considerable land in that tract. In 1701, he purchased 980 acres of land in Plymouth township; this land started from what is now the borough line of Norristown, on the old Arch street road, extending down each side of the Great road (Germantown pike) toward Plymouth Meeting.

David built his house facing the Arch street road; a room in this house was fitted up and kept for Divine worship only. A partition extended across the room, dividing it

into equal portions, and could be raised and fastened by hooks to the ceiling, as was deemed necessary. This room would hold seventy-five persons. When there was a small meeting of the Friends, or when the men and the women Friends held their business meetings at the same time, then the room was divided by this partition.

Friends met here frequently for worship, previous to the building of the Friends Meeting-house at Plymouth. After that meeting-house was built, the Monthly Meeting decided that a mid-week meeting should be held once a week at David Meredith's.

We will now take up the line of John, son of Rees and Mary (Price) Harry, who was born 10th mo., 14th, 1736; died 1st mo., 13th, 1800; he was married, in 1768, to Alice, daughter of Moses and Mary (Pennell) Meredith; they were married without the consent of their Meetings, by a priest of the Episcopal Church. John made his acknowledgment at Plymouth Meeting, and Alice made her acknowledgment to the Chester Meeting—both were accepted. John Harry and his wife were each a great grand-child of David Meredith. Alice was born 7th mo., 14th, 1736; died 1st mo., 8th, 1775. They are buried in the old part of the Plymouth Meetings grounds. Rees Harry deeded the land in Whitemarsh he had received from his father, David, to his son John; also one hundred acres in Whitpain township. John built a house on the Whitemarsh tract, and there he took his bride; three children were born to them: Mary, David and Sarah. Their mother dying, leaving these three little children, Mary, the eldest child, went to live with her grandparents, Moses and Mary (Pennell) Meredith, at Edgemont, Chester county. She married, in Middletown Meeting-house, 6th mo., 9th, 1791, Robert, son of Frederick and Mary (Pennell) Fairlamb.

I am indebted to Mrs. Eleanor Fairlamb Gibson, of Shelden, Iowa, a great-great-granddaughter of Mary (Harry) Fairlamb, for the following: Mary Harry was living with her grandparents, near where the battle of the Brandywine was fought, and saw the English pursue the defeated Americans toward Chester. Mary was nine years

of age; she was in the garden one day, digging chamomile, when an English officer, who had stopped at the well for water, saw the little girl, and inquired what she was doing. "Digging chamomile," was the reply. "And what is chamomile?" She turned to him, and said, "It is a rebel plant; like our cause, it can not be killed no matter how many times it is cut down."

Sarah Harry married, without the consent of her Meeting, Jacob Lukens. She did not make an acknowledgment to the Meeting; they were married 12th mo., 30th, 1794. She died at the residence of her granddaughter, Annie, wife of Solomon Gilbert, of Norristown, 3d mo., 11th, 1864, aged ninety-one years; buried at Plymouth Friends' burying-ground.

John Harry married, 2d, Letitia Jones (widow); their son Rees was the grandfather of Mary, Howard, Edward, A. Markley and Anna Harry, of Norristown.

David, son of John and Alice (Meredith) Harry, was born in Whitemarsh (now Conshohocken) 11th mo., 17th, 1771. He married, without the consent of his Meeting, Ann, daughter of Thomas and Lydia (White) Davis, 1st mo., 28th, 1806. He made his acknowledgment to Plymouth Meeting, which was accepted. Ann became a member of this Meeting, taking a very active part in it and became an elder. She died 11th mo., 21st, 1831. David died 1st mo., 19th, 1849. Both are buried in the Plymouth Friends' burying-ground.

David Harry became the owner of the three hundred acres which had been his father's part of the original tract. This land was on the east side of Fayette street, Conshohocken, from the river to the line of Plymouth township. David built a grist mill on the banks of the Schuylkill in 1820. Before the canal was built, David laid pipes to Plymouth creek to run his mill. He sold to the Schuylkill Navigation Company, in 1831, enough land to cut a canal through his property. On August 4, 1848, an agreement was drawn up between this company and David, in which the said Company was to pay him ten dollars per day for every day that no water was allowed to run through the race.

Children of David and Ann (Davis) Harry were: Samuel Davis, born 11th mo., 30th, 1806; died 10th mo., 20th, 1831. Benjamin, born 5th mo., 14th, 1809. Rees, born 2d mo., 27th, 1812; died 10th mo., 14th, 1843. Mary, born 3d mo., 22d, 1815. David, born 5th mo., 10th, 1817; died 9-17-1825.

Benjamin Harry married Lydia, daughter of James and Ann (Warner) Wood. (James was the founder of the iron mills, Conshohocken.) They were married at her parents' residence, before Judge Evans, of Philadelphia, December 6, 1835. Benjamin was a member of the Plymouth Friends' Meeting, and retained his membership in that Meeting. He purchased the farm and grist-mill from his father's estate, and ran the mill for some time; finally discontinued the mill, and turned the farm into nurseries. Some years before his death, he retired from business. When Conshohocken was incorporated as a borough, May 15, 1850 (it had been laid out as a town some years previous, and the lower part of the town was quite built up), Benjamin began selling off the property into lots, and when the avenues and the other streets were opened through his land, he had trees planted to beautify the town. He was interested in all enterprises calculated to benefit his home town. During the time of slavery, he helped in operating the "Underground Railroad." He built a school-house on his property for the use of his children and the children of his wife's relatives.

Benjamin and Lydia (Wood) Harry's children were: David Wood, Anna, James Wood, Mary, Winfield S. and John Wood. Benjamin died at his residence, Harry street and Second avenue, Conshohocken, 2d mo., 23d, 1888; his wife died two years later; both are buried at the Plymouth Friends' burying-ground.

David Wood Harry, M.D., married Mary, daughter of David E. and Mary (Freedley) Wood, of Virginia. They have two sons: David Wood, Jr., and B. Rees Harry.

Anna and Mary were not married.

James Wood Harry, Ph.D., married Elizabeth, daughter of Hamilton and Elizabeth Maxwell, of Conshohocken; they

had two sons: Howard Stephenson and Hamilton Maxwell Harry.

Winfield S. Harry married Mary, daughter of John and Isabel (Moffat) Johnson, of Philadelphia; they had three sons: William Cleaver, Ernest Johnson, and Benjamin Harry. All resided on Harry street, Conshohocken.

John Wood Harry married Laura, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Hinkle) Slingluff; they have two daughters: Ida Wood and Bertha Slingluff Harry.

Mary, daughter of David and Ann (Davis) Harry, born 3d mo., 22d, 1815; married Joseph Yerkes, of Plymouth Meeting; she died 1st mo., 19th, 1842, leaving three small children: David H., Annie H. and Mary H. Yerkes. David Harry Yerkes was killed in the battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864. Annie Harry Yerkes married William Wilson; they had two daughters: Laura and Mary. Laura married George W. Wood, of Conshohocken. Mary Wilson married Dr. George N. Highley; they reside in Conshohocken. Mary Harry Yerkes married Alan Wood, Jr. Mary H. Wood survived her husband several years, and at her death bequeathed her home to Conshohocken, to be used as a park.

The story of Mary Harry's heroic service at the time of the cholera epidemic, when the Schuylkill Navigation Company's canal was cut through her father's property, seems a fitting closing tribute. Many of the laborers being stricken with the dread disease, a barn on David Harry's farm was turned into an emergency hospital, Dr. Hiram Corson and the Harry family doing everything possible to alleviate their sufferings. Mary Harry, though a very young and beautiful girl, never thought of herself, but went fearlessly among the stricken men, caring for the living and comforting the dying. Dr. Corson, in speaking of her goodness, said: "You can talk of god's nobleman: I say, if there ever was God's noble woman, it was Mary Harry."

Pow-Wow, and Other Superstitions*

By SYLVESTER H. ORR

Since the first settlers came to this country, there always have been gullible people who were led to believe all sorts of psychic phenomena, claimed as reliefs or cures for the affliction of man and beasts; especially was this the case fifty or more years ago. Witchcraft (*hexerei*, in Pennsylvania German) broke out at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692, where a number of good people lost their lives, before the wild frenzy was suppressed.

Various mysteries, charms, legerdemains, ghosts, witcheries, phantoms, hypnotisms, thirteen-link chains, pow-wow and all other imaginable beliefs, have been practiced by charlatans, fakirs, jugglers, mountebanks, legerdemains, fortune-tellers, voo-doo doctors and other sorcerers, among people who are easily misled. It appears these mysteries were more practiced among the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, east of the Susquehanna river, than elsewhere. Various superstitions have always been followed; prominent among these are the signs of the zodiac, as given in the almanac, which were consulted before potatoes, garden vegetables and field crops were planted, or timber was felled. Post fences had to be built in the down-cast of the moon, or the posts would freeze out of ground, and the fence would fall over. Young people consulted the almanac, and married when moon was increasing, and as near full moon as possible, as this was considered necessary to start them on the road to prosperity.

The periodical return of a comet was generally considered an unfavorable omen—indicating war, pestilence

*Read before the Society, April 26, 1924.

or other disaster. Shortly before the late Civil War, a comet appeared which greatly alarmed the people, and was considered an omen of that war.

Certain days of the month were listed as unlucky. If a new work was begun on Wednesday, Friday or on the 13th of the month, it would take a long time to complete it.

On Candlemas Day, the ground-hog is supposed to arouse from his hibernation, and if the animal sees his shadow, he will return again into winter quarters for another six weeks. The annual return of this day affords the daily newspapers an opportunity for an interesting "write-up." No one of the present day is much exercised as to whether the day is clear or cloudy.

Pow-wow-ing is based on ancient superstitions recorded in three old publications, of which copies can still be obtained from dealers in curious books. I have been able to secure copies of two of the publications bearing the following titles:

1. The Long Lost Friend, containing mysterious and invaluable arts and remedies for man, as well as animals, with many proofs of their virtue and efficacy in healing diseases &c.

2. Albertus Magnus being the approved, verified, sympathetic and natural Egyptian Secrets, or White and Black Art—for man and Beast. The book of Nature and the hidden secrets and mysteries of life unveiled, being the forbidden knowledge of Ancient Philosophers &c.&c.

Translated from the German; Book is in three parts.

3. Biblia Arcana Magica Alexander, according to the Traditions of the sixth and seventh Books of Moses besides Magical Laws.

(I did not see a copy of the last named book.)

According to preface of the first book, it was published, in July, 1819, by the author, John George Hohman, who lived at Rosenthal, near Reading, Pennsylvania. It contains

a number of testimonials from persons who were helped, or cured of various afflictions; it was never copyrighted, and has gone through at least three editions. In 1856, an edition was printed by the Shafers, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The last edition was published in 1912, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Evidently the publisher of the last-named book had nothing to add, as it is an exact counterpart of the 1856 edition, which shows that there have been no improvements or discoveries since that book was first published.

I am sorry I did not have access to the third book, or any other publications on the subject. Title of the third book, and much other valuable information, was obtained from newspaper clippings loaned by Mr. Edward W. Hocker, editor of "The Independent-Gazette," published at Germantown, Pennsylvania. One person who acknowledged owning two books on pow-wowing, invented an excuse for not loaning them to me, stating that they were packed away.

The pow-wow practitioner claims to cure diseases by making a series of movements with his hand, blowing on, or over, the afflicted parts, and repeating certain magic words.

Cures have often followed pow-wowing, especially so where the patient had sufficient faith in the operator; the mere announcement of the latter that a cure will be effected, may be sufficient to cure certain nervous or muscular affections. The influence and disposition of one mind over another is wonderful; some physicians can accomplish more than others, simply because by their cheerful disposition they make the patient believe he will recover. This grain of truth is the basis, likewise, of the wonders accomplished by faith cure, Christian Science, mind cure and similar cults.

The ethics of the pow-wow man forbid that he should receive a fee for his services. If he fixes a price for his efforts, they lose their power, he believes. Nearly all pow-wow "doctors" adhere to this rule, but they do not object to receiving a gift.

With the general diffusion of education, the people lost faith in the pow-wow man. A few aged individuals main-

tain the prestige of past days, but those who patronize them do it largely out of curiosity. Generally, when one is sick, the family physician, who possesses the diploma of a recognized medical college, is summoned. While in the past there were numerous pow-wowers, strange as it may appear, few of their descendants practice the cult.

Some practitioners formerly prescribed medicine or herbs to be used in addition to pow-wow methods. Years ago, a law was passed prohibiting anyone to prescribe medicine, or to charge for medical treatment, unless such person held a diploma from a regular medical college, and possessed a state license to practice medicine. This was a severe blow to the pow-wow practitioners. These fakirs have been materially reduced since the law went into effect. One case is on record, where the son of a noted pow-wower took a regular medical course and received a doctor's diploma, when he took his father's place, and continued to pow-wow, also prescribing medicine. By this plan he is permitted to charge for his services. The pow-wow feature is undoubtedly retained to draw customers.

Note: Since the writing of Mr. Orr's paper, public attention has been directed to the subject of witchcraft, or *hexerei*, by the trial and conviction for first degree murder, of a young man residing in York county, Pennsylvania.

The defendant testified that he became sick, lost weight and could not sleep. On consulting an old "witch doctor," he was informed that he was being bewitched by a certain neighbor, and that to break the spell it would be necessary to get a lock of this man's hair, and bury it eight feet under ground.

Another family, living nearby, found that its hens ceased laying, cows stopped giving milk and *neighbors and relatives made trouble*, through the operation of similar sorcery.

The defendant, therefore, with two friends, went at night to the house of the supposed *hex*, attacked him and killed him.

At the trial, the defendant frankly asserted the right of any individual to take the life of a person who was bewitching him. When asked if he had obtained a lock of the dead man's hair, he replied that it was not needed, as he would be buried *with his head eight feet under ground!*—Ed.

History of Hatboro*

By MRS. PENROSE ROBINSON

The question is sometimes asked, which was the original name of this town—Hatborough, or Crooked Billet?

In Lewis Evans' map of the Middle Colonies in 1749, and other early records, it is called Hatborough, and it is generally thought this was the name given the town for its first settler, John Dawson, a hatter from London, England, who built the first stone house here in 1705.

When the first stone house was later turned into a tavern, the sign was a crooked stick of wood, and the tavern was called the "Crooked Billet," from a famous inn on Water street, Philadelphia. Four generations of the Watson family have owned and lived in this house, one of the men telling me, just a short time ago, that he could remember the old sign that he saw around the wagon shop. After the opening of the York road in 1711, it was known as a stage house, as the first-class taverns were then called.

Washington, when encamped at Hartsville, then called Cross Roads, wrote to the president of Congress, on August 10, 1777: "I this minute received your favor of this afternoon, transmitting the intelligence that a fleet was seen off Sinepuxent on the 7th instant. I was about three miles eastward of the Billet tavern, on the road to Coryell's Ferry (now New Hope) when the express arrived."

Washington also mentions the fact that he drank wine in the Billet Inn.

In the Crooked Billet the men first met who conceived the idea of having a public library. In 1755, when the Union Library of Hatborough was founded, there were only two

*Read at an outing of the Society, October 11, 1924.

others in Pennsylvania, and eleven in the whole country. It was during the time of the French and Indian War, and the minutes of the library have recorded "black and dark ignorance prevailed, so some of the thinking people proposed to form a public library as the most likely way to promote knowledge and moral virtue."

Everybody interested was invited to meet at the Crooked Billet, the public house of David Reese. Thirty-five members signed what they called the "instrument of partnership, the title to be the Union Library Company of Hatborough, in the Manor of Moreland, in the county of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, in the second day of August, in the 29th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the Second, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc."

Hatborough at that time did not have more than a dozen houses, nor was there any larger town within ten miles.

They collected £44, 7s., which they sent to England to buy books. Over a year elapsed before the books arrived, much damaged by water on shipboard.

Thomas Penn, son of William Penn, is recorded as giving books to the library, and among others, Lady Elizabeth Ferguson, Governor Keith's granddaughter, gave a very considerable donation of books. During the Revolution, the books were hidden in the Longstreth homestead at Johnsville, now owned by Benjamin Wood. In Scott's Gazetteer, published in 1795, it mentions Hatborough having a very handsome library of one thousand volumes, showing how it had grown in forty years.

During the early days, the books were kept from time to time in different people's homes, until Nathan Holt, who felt he had gained most of his knowledge from this library, gave the bulk of his estate for a building. A classic stone structure of Doric order was designed and erected in 1851. There are some rare books to be found here, some printed between 1593 and 1730, and 130 volumes relating to the history of America, printed before 1800.

Through the years of the library's existence there have been times of prosperity and depression, but it has steadily

grown until it now has about 25,000 volumes on its shelves, and the original beauty of the building is still retained.

Among the early residents of our town, there were several very scholarly men, among them Robert Loller. He was a teacher, surveyor, conveyancer, and colonel in the Continental army. He was chosen one of the deputies for the county of Philadelphia to consider the resolution of the Continental Congress; also one of the judges to elect members to a convention to form a constitution for the state of Pennsylvania.

Previous to 1784, all this part of the country was in Philadelphia county. In that year, Montgomery county was formed, Robert Loller being a member of the committee that effected the division. He left the bulk of his estate to establish an institution of learning, which was built in 1812, and called Loller Academy. It filled the needs of the neighborhood as a public hall, as well as a school, for many years. The lyceum lectures, debating societies, and the like, were all held in Loller Hall. The Baptist church held services there for five years, previous to the erection of their building in 1840.

At the time the Academy building was built, it was used as a private school. The public school system did not start until 1836, when it was optional whether the townships adopt it. Moreland township did not until 1848. For several years after that, Hugh Morrow, principal, ran it as a combined private and public school. Since 1873, the building has been used entirely as a public school.

The Academy clock was made by Isaiah Lukens, of Horsham, one of the founders of the Franklin Institute. He learned his trade from his father, Seneca Lukens, a self-taught clock-maker. On the bell, which can be made to strike the hours and ring independently, is the inscription: "George Hedderly, Philadelphia founder. Cast in 1811." And the following: "Sound me not in praise of aught but reason and merit."

Isaiah Lukens afterward built the clock in the tower of Independence Hall, Philadelphia, receiving for it the amount of \$5000.

In the early days, a grist mill was very necessary to living, so along the banks of the Pennypack was built the first mill of the neighborhood.

The first record of the land on which the mill stands was in 1712, when the grant of land was given by William Penn to a man by the name of Allen. The mill was built in 1724, just 200 years ago. Since that time many families have owned it, but none for any great length of time.

The Pennypack creek, which furnished the power to run the mill, was named for Pemmapecka, a chief of the Lenni Lenape Indians, who roamed the forest around here. The bridge crossing the creek on the Easton road, just below Horsham, has an old date-stone on it, bearing the name Pemmapecka, 1796. The creek, rising just beyond that point, formed an important boundary in four of William Penn's purchases from the Indians.

The first bridge on the York road, crossing the Pennypack, was built in 1749, a stone bridge with one arch. In 1834, the present three-arch bridge was built, and in 1922 it was widened to accommodate traffic, the commissioners very carefully using the old facing stones which preserved a bridge which architects of today consider one of the finest types that can be built.

The old bridge was crossed several times by the armies during the Revolutionary War. When the British were encamped in Philadelphia, they depended on the surrounding country for their food supplies. General John Lacey, who was a member of Wrightstown Friends' Meeting, was in command of the American troops stationed here. His orders were to watch the enemy, protect the inhabitants and cut off the supplies going to the British in Philadelphia.

So you see, the capture of General Lacey was of considerable importance to the British. Here he had four hundred and fifty men, poorly supplied with arms and ammunition, and suffering at times for food.

Early in the morning of May 1, 1778, a detachment under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Abercrombie and Major Simcoe made a sudden attack on General Lacey's camp, outnumbering Lacey's men, three to one. One of

Lacey's scouting parties met Abercrombie's division two miles southeast of the camp, but fearing he would be cut to pieces if he fired the alarm, he gave orders to another party to give the alarm, which was not done. Consequently, Abercrombie's forces were within two hundred yards of Lacey's camp when discovered. The attack was so sudden that General Lacey had hardly time to mount his horse before the British were within musket shot.

Finding himself nearly surrounded, he ordered a retreat, fighting as he went, until in a wood near Johnsville, he was able to extricate himself from the enemy. In a roundabout way, he worked back to Hatborough, where he found the British had gone back to Philadelphia, after treating the wounded prisoners most cruelly. Thirty Americans were killed and seventeen wounded.

To the disobedience of the scouts, General Lacey attributed his misfortune. From the scene of action, Lacey and his forces went to Cross Roads, by the Neshaminy bridge. From there he sent a dispatch to General Washington. The Commander-in-Chief the next day sent him the following brief and excellent letter:

Headquarters, Valley Forge

May 3, 1778

Sir:

I received yours of yesterday, giving me an account of your misfortune. You may depend that this will ever be the consequence of permitting yourself to be surprised; and if that was owing to the misconduct of the officer who was advanced, you should have him brought to trial. It is not improbable that the enemy, flushed with success, will soon be out again; if you keep a strict watch upon their motions, you may perhaps repay them.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

George Washington

In the upper end of the town is a monument commemorating this skirmish. On the shaft, erected the first year of the Civil War, under the state seal of Pennsylvania, are these words:

CROOKED BILLET BATTLE, May 1, 1778

General John Lacey
commanding the American
Patriots who were here
engaged in conflict
for Independence.

Col. William Dean
Capt. Isaac Longstreth

In Memory of
patriotic

Capt. John Downey
and others who were
cruelly slain on this
ground in the struggle
for American liberty.

The patriots of
1776
achieved our independence.

Their successors
established it in 1812.

We are now struggling
for its perpetuation in 1861.

"The Union must and shall be preserved."

A grateful tribute
by the
Hatborough Monument Association
chartered and erected
A. D. 1861

As one glances back at the historic dates of Hatborough — how connected with war they are — the Library, founded in 1755, the second year of the French and Indian War; Loller Academy, the year of the War of 1812; and the monument erected by the men fighting in the War of the Rebellion, in 1861.

Few places of similar size had as great early advantages as Hatborough, and our old buildings have never outlived

their usefulness. The Crooked Billet tavern is now a dwelling house, the Library is distributing more books each year, and Loller Academy is sending out a greater number of boys and girls, as time goes on, and the old mill, now a tea-house, still provides for the comfort of man.

May we always treasure our history, preserve our landmarks, and inspire future residents of our town as we have been inspired by our forefathers.

Note: For details concerning the monument at Hatboro, the reader is referred to a pamphlet: *Address at the Inauguration of the Hatborough Monument commemorating the Battle of the Crooked Billet, Delivered in Loller Academy, December 5, 1861. By Rev. Jacob Belville.* The complete inscription on the monument, as given in this pamphlet, does not include the names of Colonel William Dean and Captain Isaac Longstreth, mentioned in Mrs. Robinson's paper.—Ed.

History of Hatboro

By MRS. PENROSE ROBINSON

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER ON THE HISTORY OF HATBORO

By S. GORDON SMYTH

Reference has been made to the organization and the activities of the Hatboro Public Library—one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the state of Pennsylvania, and to some of the notable men who were identified with it and with the history of Hatboro itself. In connection with this subject, it is deemed essential that, for further information to the reader, and to broaden the scope of Mrs. Robinson's paper, we introduce other matter of peculiar interest to it.

We may ask, to what influences is attributed the founding of the Hatboro Public Library? To this end, it may be recalled that at the time of its genesis, the surrounding country was sparsely inhabited by groups of those of different racial origins; principally, they were Scotch-Irish; there were some English settlers, also, with some Welsh and Dutch. These elements were largely Presbyterian in religious faith, with some Dutch Reformed, some Quakers, and some affiliated with the Church of England.

The locality was the immediate vicinity of the seat of the provincial Governor, Sir William Keith, and at his baronial residence he exercised his authority under the regular code of a colonial court, and held at what is now known as Graeme Park, which is now believed to have been the centre of political, social and sporting activities, far removed from Philadelphia, where one might suppose, it should have been, instead of in the country, many miles away.

From 1706 to 1722, Keith was the magnet that drew the business of the province, and centralized it in more or less social grandeur at the Park, while he represented the Proprietary, William Penn, until he parted company with the Founder, in 1722, and was elected to the Provincial Assembly, where he represented the people, instead; but in all this time, Keith's manor was considered the centre of culture and refinement of the period.

Attracted under conditions which existed at the time, and by the predominating population of Irish Presbyterians in that region, the Rev. William Tennent, Sr., in 1726, was called to the pastorate of a little congregation, located about four miles from the site of the present town of Hatboro. In 1727, Mr. Tennent came with his family to this neighborhood, and a year or two later established the celebrated classical school known in local and religious history as the Log College. Rev. Tennent was then about fifty-nine years of age; he had four sons in his family—Gilbert, Charles, John and William—whose ages ranged from twelve to eighteen, who were now to be isolated from any place of learning suitable to their station or future prospects in life, and whose need, and that of other youth in similar circumstances, prompted Mr. Tennent to initiate, in the backwoods and on the banks of the Neshaminy, a school to meet this situation, from which were graduated in the succeeding years a number of men who became eminent in the gospel ministry; who penetrated the wilderness beyond the Potomac river and entered the valley of Virginia, which yielded to a rapid settlement after 1731. These were the men who established missions there; and from such source there came a body of students to Log College whose spirituality and zeal led to the founding, in later years, of Princeton College, with its original but brilliant faculty of teachers and leaders.¹

¹ And so we, too, can join in the sentiment on the commemorative tablet to Rev. William Tennent, Founder of the Log College, 1727:

“Here, in the life of a pioneer teacher,
Sound learning, endued with spiritual passion,

It would be difficult to estimate to just what degree of influence can be accredited the far-reaching results emanating from such humble beginnings, or what they had upon the community at large in those days; it is beyond question, however, that the enterprise and aggressiveness of Rev. William Tennent, the founder of Log College, and his followers, permeated the whole region, penetrating and affecting the exclusive coterie and cultural atmosphere in and about the baronial home of Sir William Keith.

Such were the moral and normal conditions at that time, that it is with little wonder that we catch the significance of a clause in the preamble to the "Instrument of Partnership" which precedes the actual organization of "The Union Library Company of Hatborough," which reads, "dark ignorance * * * did about this time prevail in these parts, and no general scheme on foot for the promotion of knowledge and virtue."

Sixteen years before the date of this "Instrument" (1755), Rev. George Whitefield whose remarkable success in evangelism had preceded him, made his first visit to Log College (1739), and "preached to a gathering of 3000 people who came from far and near." On this occasion, some were present who became actively engaged in the founding and progress of the Hatboro Library that is. Among them in particular may be noted Rev. William Tennent, Jr., Rev. Charles Beatty, Samuel Davies, Samuel Finley, Edward Shippen, and, no doubt, many others; and, we may assume, Governor Keith and his family, as well as students from the classical school, who later became famous clergymen. But history does not record them all, and much, at this distant day, may be left to the imagination.

At the time of the signing of the "Instrument," the middle colonies were in the midst of the turmoil of the French and Indian War and its consequent excitements; above all this, rose the call for tranquillity and a search for knowl-

Wrought to vitalize knowledge, glorify truth,
Enrich life, and in due time call forth,
To the Glory of God and the welfare of American youth,
These worthy Christian colleges."



LOG COLLEGE

(From "The Presbytery of the Log College," by Thomas Murphy.)

edge from the settlers in this section of the country, and it is of more than passing interest that we place upon record the names of those men whom war did not alarm nor turn from a sense of duty to their brethren. So we are told that "it was ten days after Braddock's defeat" that the first meeting of the associators of the Library was called, but "that nothing was done until the beginning of the Summer of 1755 when on the 19th July a conference was held by Rev. Charles Beatty, Rev. Joshua Potts, John Lukens and Joseph Hart." This meeting was followed by another held on August 2, 1755, at David Rees's "Ye Crooked Billett," and there a plan was read, approved and signed by several members, who were required to meet on the first Saturday in the following November, to choose officers, etc. The following are the first signers:

Charles Beatty ²	John Bartolett	Nathan Bewley
Jacob Cadwallader	Peter Craven	David Davis
Joseph Dilworth	Able Dungan	Clement Dungan
Joseph Dungan	Jonathan DuBois ³	Alexander Edwards
Joseph Gilbert	Joseph Hart	Isaac Hough
Samuel Irwin	John Jarrett, Jr.	John Jones
Job Lancaster	Wm. Loufburrow	John Lukens
Peter Lukens	Joshua Potts	Thomas Potts
David Rees	Isaac Shoemaker	John Shoemaker
Samuel Shoemaker	W. Spenser	Samuel Swift
Wm. Tennent	Daniel Thomas	John Thomas
James Vansant	John Watts	Silas Yerkes

² Charles Clinton Beatty came to America as a poor immigrant boy, and, after traveling about the country, finally attracted the attention of Rev. William Tennent, Sr., who induced him to come to the Log College, where he studied, was ordained to the ministry in 1743, succeeded Rev. William Tennent as the pastor of the Neshaminy church, upon the death of the latter, in 1746, and continued to serve that congregation for forty-nine years. Rev. Beatty served as chaplain among the eight hundred men whom Benjamin Franklin raised for the French and Indian War, in 1756. On his return from the first expedition, Beatty raised a company of one hundred men for Col. Clapham's Regiment of Foot, and again went to the front as chaplain. In 1758, he served as chaplain in the First Battalion of Pennsylvania Provincials, served under General Forbes, was present at the capitulation of Fort Duquesne (which then received the name of Fort Pitt), and preached a thanksgiving sermon to the army, in honor of the victory. On Mr. Beatty's return to Neshaminy, in 1760, he was sent to Great Britain by the incorporators of the Minister's Fund, to solicit subscriptions in aid of the fund, and while in London, on this errand, he was

Then, in pursuance of the above above instructions, the annual meeting was held on November 1, 1755, at which time "The Union Library Company of Hatborough" elected a board of directors composed of John Jarrett, Samuel Irwin and Joseph Hart.

It is interesting, also, to note that the seventeenth section of the "Instrument of Partnership" refers to the adoption of a device, and reads: "That for Distinction's sake, the Members Subscribing in Company aforesaid, Shall at all times for Ever hereafter be Called the UNION LIBRARY COMPANY OF HATBOROUGH & shall have a Seal in Comon with this Devise, Viz., A Shield in the Midle divided into Three Parts, in one of the upper parts a Book opened, and in the other three Books Shut and Erect and in the Lower part, or half, a Knot Represented by four hands each taking hold of another's Wrist; having a pair of Dividers on the Right side, and a Tulip on the Left, a Dove Represented

present at the coronation of George III, by whom he was received. He also received a donation to the fund, from the King. In 1766, he was commissioned by the Synod to go to Carlisle, to meet a council, and establish a mission among the Indians beyond the Ohio; he then penetrated the wilderness west of Pittsburg, and carried out his instructions. He became a trustee of Princeton College, which had been established before 1760. And while on a sojourn in the Barbadoes Islands, whither he had gone to solicit aid for Princeton College, he died there, 13 August, 1772. In this connection, it is said, that in 1811, when an attempt was made to establish Princeton Seminary on the site of the old Log College, the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, pastor of the Neshaminy church, devised to it \$1,000 in case the movement should be successful. (Pubs. Bucks Co. Hist. Soc.; Vol. III, p. 7.)

³ Jonathan DuBois was a great-grandson of the famous Louis DuBois, one of the twelve "Patentees," of New Paltz, Ulster Co., N. Y. Jonathan studied for the ministry at Log College under Rev. William Tennent, and in 1749 became pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of North and Southampton, then located at Feasterville, Bucks county, Pennsylvania. He remained in this charge until his death, in 1772. In 1858, the churches at Richboro and Southampton merged, and worshipped as one congregation at what is now Churchville, Pennsylvania. One of the descendants of Rev. Jonathan DuBois is the wife of Richard Montgomery, S.T.D., of Wyncote, Pa.

..... her above the Shield, &
 Two Branches of Thyme enclosing the name underneath,
 And Circumscribing the Whole
 1755, which, said Seal from time to time be securely kept,
 by the secretary for the time being, in the library, for the
 of the said Company." No one seems to know if
 this seal were ever used. On an examination of several books
 in the stacks at the Library, the compiler was unable to find
 any label with such a device. The present seal is of a far
 different design.

In brief, the following items are worthy of attention. On
 December 19, 1755, Rev. Charles Beatty was given 44
 pounds in money, and directed to send to London for books;
 at the same time, gifts in money and books were received
 from Hon. Lawrence Growdon, John Lukens and John Ross.
 On the 5th of November, 1757, a sum of money was given
 to Charles Beatty to send to London for more books, and
 have them insured, and about this time Chief Justice Wil-
 liam Allen presented a collection of books. Again on the
 10th of May, 1760, a collection of books was purchased
 from Rev. Charles Beatty, "as he was going to London," he
 was requested "to make additional purchases there" for the
 Library. Within these years, many contributions of books,
 or money, or both, had been made by notable people of the
 province, such as Joseph Galloway, James Young, John
 Erwin, and others. In 1763 came a valuable collection from
 Dr. Thomas Graeme, and a like donation from Hon. Thomas
 Penn on the 5th of May, 1770. Among those sent by Eliza-
 beth Ferguson were three books dated, respectively, 1595,
 1713, and one in "black letter," 1722. Another book in the
 possession of the Library is entitled "THE HISTORY OF
 ENGLAND OR MEMORIALS OF THE ENGLISH AF-
 FAIRS," the author of which was Sir Bulstrode Whitlock,
 Lord Commissioner of the Great Seal, &c.; published from
 the original manuscript by WILLIAM PENN, ESQ., GOV-
 ERNOUR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

H. Hugh Ferguson was an early member, before 1760;
 we find him on one of the committees on the 5th of Febru-
 ary, 1774.

In this vicinity lived also the maternal ancestors of General U. S. Grant—the Simpsons, Wiers and Manns.

In 1787, The Hatboro Public Library was incorporated by Act of Assembly. A catalog had been prepared showing that at this time there were six hundred and twenty volumes on its shelves. Up to this date, a large number of the people of its vicinity had enrolled as members, and signed the "Instrument of Partnership." Omitting the names of the original founders, those who came later were:

Robert Anderson
Isaac Cadwallader
Abraham Duffield
John Folwell
John Hart
Nathaniel Irwin
John Johnson
John Longstreth
Abraham Lukens
Jesse Lukens
Seneca Lukens
Able Marple
James Ogilbee
John Shoemaker
William Todd
William Vansant
Stephen Yerkes
John Hough

John Bond
William Crawford
H. Hugh Ferguson
Joseph Folwell
Josiah Hart
John Jarrett
Isaac Longstreth
Joseph Longstreth
Benjamin Lukens
Joseph Lukens
Isaac Leech
Archibald McClean
James Scout
Daniel Thomas
Jacob Tomkins
Amos Watson
Titus Yerkes
Isaac Hough

Moses Cherry
Daniel Dungan
John Fitch
William Folwell
Thomas Hallowell
Jonathan Jarrett
Daniel Longstreth
Evan Lloyd
Evan Lukens
Peter Lukens
Robert Loller
Able Morgan
James Spenser
Mordicai Thomas
William Van Horne
Arthur Watts
James Young
Thomas Hough

⁴ Rev. William Tennent, Jr., in 1733, became minister at Freehold, New Jersey, in succession to his brother, Rev. Gilbert Tennent, who had been his preceptor; but owing to an illness which caused much suffering, and a loss of memory, he lost his clerical training, and upon recovery had to be taught all over again, but then resumed his charge at Freehold, which he continued for forty-four years, dying there in 1777. He often returned to the Neshaminy, and associated with his friends in the neighborhood. He may have had something to do with the development of the Union Library at Hatboro. There was another—Rev. William M. Tennent, son of Rev. Charles Tennent, and grandson of Rev. William Tennent, Sr., who became pastor of the Abington church, who also may have had an interest in the advancement of the Union Library, at a later date. This minister received his degree of Doctor of Divinity from Yale College, and married a daughter of the Rev. John Rogers, of New York, who had himself been educated at Log College. Then there was Rev. Samuel Davies, who succeeded Rev. Jonathan Edwards as president of Princeton College, who, too, was an alumnus of the Log College. (Pubs. Bucks Co. Hist. Soc.; Vol. III, p. 4.)

In tracing the evolution of the Hatboro Public Library from primitive conditions, and following the chronology of events leading up to the date of its founding in 1755, with the prestige of the Log College and its faculty in a wide and fecund field, it would seem that Rev. Charles Beatty (who was pastor of the church on the Neshaminy, near Harts-ville), and his colleague, Rev. William Tennent,⁴ initiated the establishment of the Union Library Company, of Hat-borough.

Some Historical Data on Horsham Meeting*

By MISS ANNA JARRETT

A minute of Abington Monthly Meeting, held 5th Mo., 1719, states that two overseers were appointed for Horsham Meeting; they were John Michener and Thomas Iredell. The meetings were held only in the winter season.

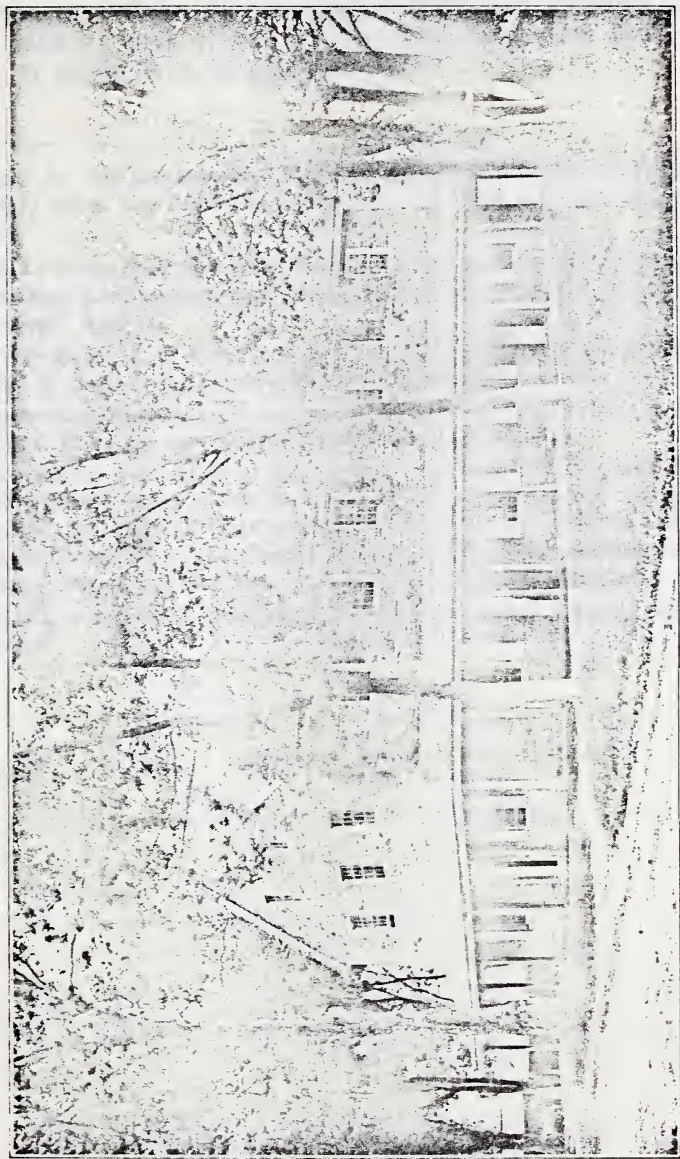
John Michener settled in Moreland, four miles from the Meeting. Thomas Iredell came from Horsham, England, and settled a half mile north of the meeting-house, where Enos Watson lives at the present time.

In 1719, Hannah Carpenter gave, by deed of trust, fifty acres to Friends, for a site for a meeting-house. Her husband, Samuel Carpenter, also gave ground at Bristol. The first meeting-house was erected in 1721. From a road jury's report, made in 1722, the "Governor's Road" passed the Horsham meeting-house in a line from . . . to Round Meadow, where it joined the New York road, which had been laid out in 1711.

From the records of the Meeting, we find that, in 1724, the Friends at Horsham asked assistance from the Abington Quarterly Meeting to finish building their house, which was given. In 1782, a Monthly Meeting was founded, and called Horsham; then, in 1803, this large building was erected, but whether the older building was log or stone, it was torn down to make way for the present one. There is no cellar to it. A second story was added in 1859. The lower story of the present school building bears the date 1739.

A library was established at Horsham in 1799, and was incorporated in 1808. In 1853 it had thirty-two members, and in 1874 its nine hundred volumes were sold.

*Read at an outing of the Society, October 11, 1924.



HORSHAM MEETING-HOUSE
(Photo by Gilbert Cope. Courtesy of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

The old sassafras tree in the yard of Horsham Meeting measures, at sixteen inches from the ground, sixteen feet eleven inches; and at the ground line, eighteen feet six inches. It dates back to about 1853.

Note: In "A Retrospect of Early Quakerism," Ezra Michener (pp. 89-90) gives the following account of the beginnings of Horsham Meeting:

1716.—"Friends of Horsham made application for a constant meeting, to be kept on first and sixth days, during the winter season, which was granted." And in

1717.—"Friends of Horsham request a preparative meeting, which is granted to them."—(Abington Monthly Meeting.)

Preparative Meetings did not formerly preserve any record of their proceedings. Horsham record was begun in the year 1769.

The meeting was probably held at private houses till the year 1724, when "application being made by Horsham Friends for some assistance towards the finishing of their new meeting-house, the meeting having taken it into consideration, orders, that the other four meetings shall assist those Friends of Horsham."—(Abington Monthly Meeting.)

In 1803, a new and commodious house was erected, seventy-two by forty feet.

Graeme Park*

By CHARLES S. MANN

Today, we who share to the fullest degree in the blessings of our educational and religious institutions, as well as in the rich material resources of this great Commonwealth, are often apt to forget the perplexing problems and the trials and disappointments suffered by the Great Founder in establishing his "Holy Experiment." Although he is, by general consent, honored as the noblest and most successful colonizer of his age, the prosperous colony he conceived and founded did not bring him either riches or unalloyed happiness. He had not spent two years in the Province before he was recalled to England to protect his interests at home, and safeguard the welfare of his American territories. British kings and queens, at that period, were frequently crowned and dethroned, which brought sudden and harmful changes in the colonial policies of their ministry.

Troubles increased thick and fast during Penn's declining years, and he was even imprisoned unjustly for debt; and although he had sold thousands of acres in Pennsylvania, much of that revenue was diverted and absorbed by heavy expenditures. The deputy governors sent to act in his stead did not always govern wisely, nor allay differences arising between the Executive Council and the people. For some years past he had been rendered incapable of taking charge of state affairs by partial paralysis, and it was again found necessary to recall a deputy governor. About that time, Sir William Keith was recommended to Hannah Penn by the Colonial Council as a worthy successor to that office. Sir William had first been sent to America by Queen Anne as Surveyor of Customs in the colonies. During a short stay

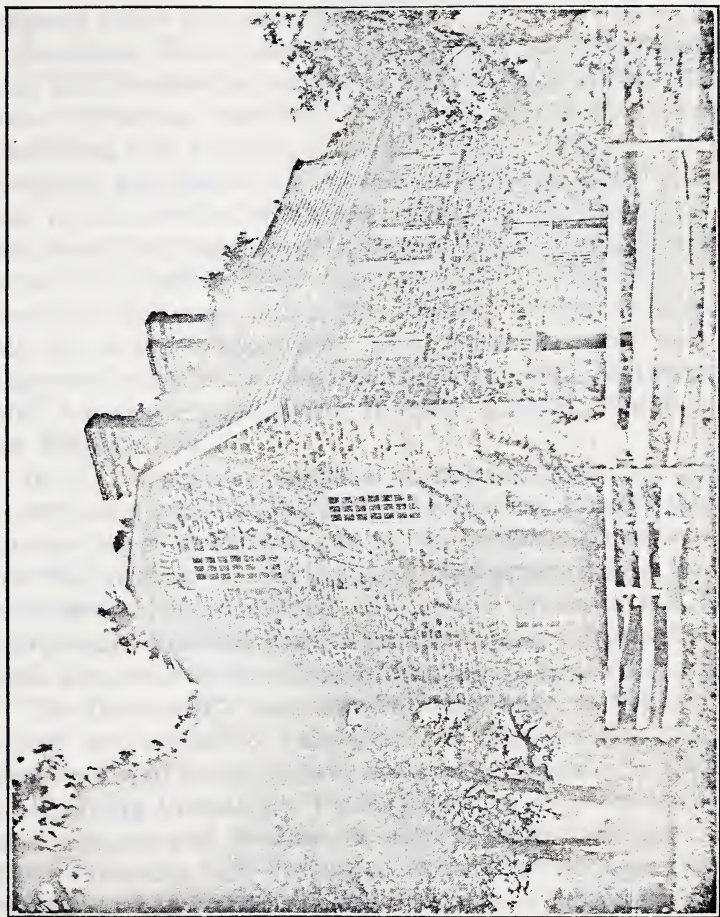
*Read at an outing of the Society, October 11, 1924.

THEORY

1. INTRODUCTION

Theory is a branch of knowledge which is concerned with the study of the principles and laws governing the behavior of matter and energy. It is a systematic and logical study of the phenomena of nature, which aims to discover the underlying causes and laws of the observed facts. The theory of physics, for example, is a branch of science which deals with the study of the properties and behavior of matter and energy. It is a systematic and logical study of the phenomena of nature, which aims to discover the underlying causes and laws of the observed facts. The theory of physics, for example, is a branch of science which deals with the study of the properties and behavior of matter and energy. It is a systematic and logical study of the phenomena of nature, which aims to discover the underlying causes and laws of the observed facts.

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GRAEME PARK

in Philadelphia he made acquaintance with some of its most influential residents, and made so favorable an impression by his knowledge of affairs and obliging manners that he was successful in winning the appointment. He was the last colonial governor commissioned by Penn, whose death occurred a few months afterward.

Governor Keith and family arrived in Philadelphia in May, 1717, accompanied by his friend, Dr. Thomas Graeme, from Perthshire, Scotland. For the purpose of clearing a plantation, and building a country home, early in 1718, the Governor purchased of Andrew Hamilton 1200 acres of land in the newly organized township of Horsham. This tract was first comprised in Penn's grant of 5066 acres to Samuel Carpenter, 1706, and lay in the wilderness remote from the highway. When Sir William settled in Horsham with his Scottish associates there were probably very few neighbors outside its pioneer families — the Palmers, Ire-dells, Lukens, Shoemakers, Jarretts, Lloyds, Cadwalladers and Kenderdines.

In 1721 a petition was sent to the Provincial Council for a convenient public road from the Governor's settlement to the meeting at Horsham, and thence to Round Meadow Run, now Willow Grove; and the road was granted by a jury and surveyed by Nicholas Scull, the famous surveyor and Indian interpreter. Another road was also opened from the York Road along the Bucks County line, up to Keith's lands.

The Governor's new mansion was built in 1721-2. That quaint and secluded homestead is undoubtedly the best-preserved and most ancient structure standing in Horsham or adjoining townships. Undisturbed in its surroundings of rural charm and beauty, it shows today but few traces of the extensive and well-appointed establishment that was created in the depth of the forest two centuries ago by Governor Keith and Dr. Thomas Graeme, his friend and successor.

Graeme Park is so rich in scenes and associations connected with our Colonial and Revolutionary times that not only has it contributed a very stirring and romantic chapter to our local history, but the life that centered around and

passed through this Colonial executive mansion produced important events and influences that very materially affected the constructive period of Provincial government and its heroic struggle for the cause of independence. Had it not been for the foresight and tireless industry of our honored local historian, William J. Buck (whose body was laid to rest in beautiful Hatboro Cemetery) and his wonderful talent for research, the interesting and invaluable annals of this historic community would have been lost beyond recovery.

Governor Keith's term continued for nine years, and was, in the main, beneficial and satisfactory to the people; the times were prosperous, and the population rapidly increased; his dealings with the Indians were just and peaceable, and he attended their councils at Conestoga and Albany to avert bloodshed and maintain Penn's policy of fair dealing with the red man. In various ways he made himself popular with the Assembly and the people. The worst trouble of his period was the scarcity of money, and the Governor favored and used his influence to pass an Act of Assembly for an issue of paper money. Nothing could have been more useful, but it was not wholly approved by the Proprietary Council. He differed with James Logan, Penn's cousin and Provincial Secretary, and removed him from office, thus incurring the displeasure of the Penn family; and this finally caused his own dismissal, in 1726. Keith then carried his grievance to the people, and was elected to the Assembly, and so entered the city in triumph, advancing at the head of sixty horsemen, which further displeased his enemies. He finally resigned and returned to London. His plantation was conveyed to his wife, Lady Ann Keith, who, in turn, sold it to her son-in-law, Dr. Graeme, who had now become distinguished in his profession; was appointed Port Physician, and active in civic affairs.

During Governor Keith's occupation, he had, by the aid of fourteen slaves, cleared seventy-five acres of land for the plow, and seeded extensive meadows for the pasture of cattle and sheep. He entertained his friends in a sumptuous manner, and conducted hunting parties over his estate. But

under the management of Dr. Thomas Graeme the plantation attained its greatest glory and renown, and all his life Dr. Graeme continued its improvement. In a letter to Thomas Penn, in 1755, Graeme wrote: "I have here a park which encloses 300 acres of very good land, with vistas and avenues through it; this is managed in a manner quite different from any I have seen here or elsewhere; 150 acres has been cleared of shrubs and undergrowth and sown with grass seed, leaving only the larger trees standing. It would be one of the finest deer parks that could be imagined. Double ditched and hedged, it forms an enclosure of beauty and ornament about the dwelling. I venture to say that there is no nobleman in England but would be proud to claim it as his country seat, and it affords me much pleasure."

Dr. Graeme's death occurred while taking a morning walk, in 1772; his estate was bequeathed to his only surviving daughter, Elizabeth, who had married Henry Hugh Ferguson, a Scotchman, of Philadelphia, shortly before her father's death. Several tracts of the large estate were afterward sold. The hopes and plans of Elizabeth for a happy life at Graeme Park, however, were abruptly terminated by the approaching clouds of the coming storm that finally separated the colonies from the mother country. Mr. Ferguson favored the British side of the argument, and, in 1775, sailed for England. Mrs. Ferguson used her utmost efforts to persuade him to remain, but all in vain, and they never afterward lived together, but she continued to live at the Park until a short time before her death, in 1801. In 1791, the estate, then reduced to five hundred and fifty-three acres, passed to Dr. William Smith, of Philadelphia, who had married Mrs. Ferguson's niece, Anna Young. About ten years later, it passed out of the Graeme descendants entirely, and for more than a century it has been well cared for under the good husbandry of the Penrose family.

Elizabeth Ferguson was a lady of charming personality, intelligent and well-educated. Seneca Lukens thought she possessed the most expressive eyes he ever beheld in a woman's countenance. J. Francis Fisher, in his volume,

"Early Poets of Pennsylvania,"¹ states that her journals, her letters and other prose compositions were widely praised and admired, and her poems showed rare grace and fancy, with evidence of rare talent and exquisite delicacy. Never did an author handle a readier pen, and her numerous friends testified to her noble disposition, her able conversational powers and amusing eccentricities. She was fond of company, and was surrounded by the most refined and literary society in the city of Philadelphia. Among the distinguished visitors entertained here were: Francis Hopkinson, Richard Stockton, Rev. Nathaniel Evans, Rev. Jacob Duché, rector of Christ Church; Provost William Smith, Richard Peters, Benjamin Rush, Elias Boudinot and Bishop White.

¹ *Some Account of the Early Poets and Poetry of Pennsylvania*: by Joshua Francis Fisher. *Memoirs of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*: Vol. II, part II, 1830.

Valley Forge—A Retrospect*

By S. GORDON SMYTH

Having reached the time of life when one is supposed to be in the reminiscent stage, and being one of the survivors who took part in the happy reunion held here thirty years ago, I have been requested to give you a ten-minute resumé of some of the changes brought about since that time. I shall not attempt to orate or eulogise, but shall limit my paper to a brief review of certain features of the convention (as it was called) and certain developments regarding the subject of my paper read at the time. Some of you will recall the speakers of that occasion and their several topics. These papers have fortunately been preserved—but where are the speakers?

The meeting (as arranged, and the program as prepared, by Senator A. D. Markley) was held in the Baptist Church of Hatboro, on July 17, 1894. Its chairman was the Hon. Harman Yerkes, of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who observed, in his address of welcome, that "it was a happy thought that suggested Hatboro for the convention of the Chester, Bucks and Montgomery Counties Historical Societies, because of the interesting events that clustered around it." And this is more true today than ever before, because your citizens have awakened to its realization, and are physically expressing it by the markers you are dedicating in the spirit of veneration, thus reflecting the sentiment of the Judge's remark of a generation ago. The meeting was opened with a prayer by the Rev. S. F. Hotchkin, of Bustleton, Philadelphia, followed by the address of welcome already referred to, and the program for the day.

*Read at an outing of the Society, October 11, 1924.

On the part of Bucks county, Gen. W. W. H. Davis gave his address on "The Battle of The Crooked Billet"; Rev. D. K. Turner, of Hartsville, followed with his paper entitled "Robert Morris, The Financier of the Revolution." Chester county was represented by Gilbert Cope, of West Chester, with the subject, "Philosophic View of Ancestry." Another paper prepared by Rush Kervey, of West Chester, entitled "The Bibliography of Chester County," was not read, because of the absence of its author. Montgomery county introduced Jacob A. Strassberger, Esq., of Norristown, whose paper was on "The Uses of History"; while "Valley Forge" was the topic of the present speaker. The papers as a whole, are said to have been exceedingly interesting and valuable contributions to our local history, and these, with one exception, have all found a place in the printed collections of the several societies attending the reunion. The speakers were all prominent in their day, and well grounded in their respective subjects. Some of these gentlemen, together with the promoters of that memorable convention, and others, no doubt, of those who attended at the time, are not with us today. Of the Montgomery county party we shall miss the genial presence of Mr. Fornance, the Hon. Henry L. Kratz, Rev. A. A. Marple, Mrs. Theodore L. Bean, Mr. W. W. Potts, Mr. Ellwood Roberts, Senator Markley, and, among others, Gen. W. W. H. Davis, Mr. Alfred Paschall and Mr. Thomas Knowles, of Bucks county, and Dr. Hotchkiss of Philadelphia county. All these honorably filled their sphere of usefulness here, and have passed on to their eternal reward, and "their works do follow them."

As a mark of respect, I would suggest that it would be fitting for this meeting to give a moment's time, in silent tribute, to the memory of our departed collaborators.

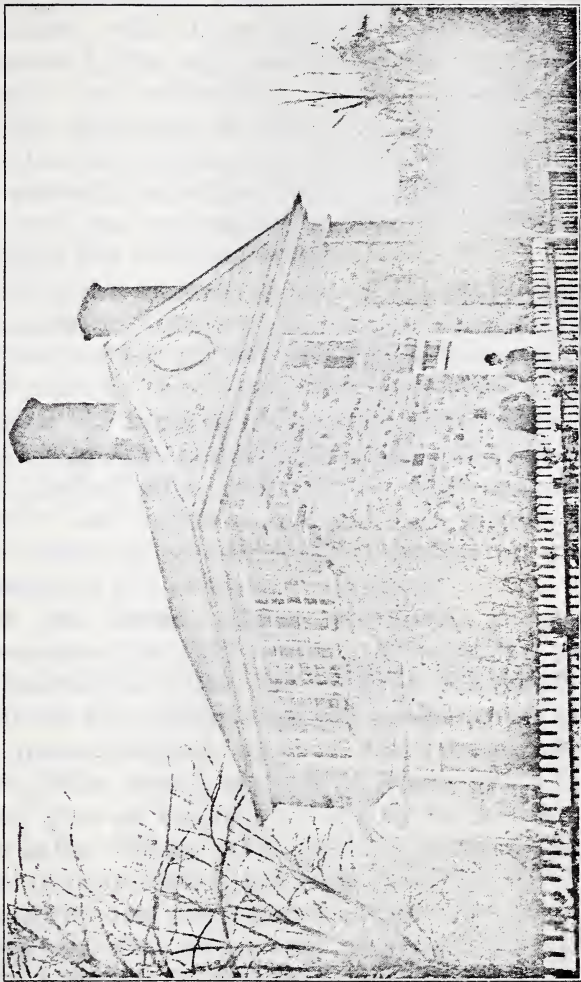
Since Mr. Gilbert Cope, of West Chester, and I, are the only survivors of those who contributed papers at the time, and, of the two, I alone am able to be present, it is expected that I should give a "backward look" on the subject of "Valley Forge," my former theme, and give you something of a comparison of the conditions there then with what they are now.

Physically, Valley Forge, as an attractive object of patriotic pride and visitation at the time I read my former paper, was not so generally known, nor beautified, as it is today. It was in a state of dormancy, with but little thought, other than that of local interest, given to its condition or ennoblement. Such consideration as it then received centred about the old headquarters, and the two or three acres of land recently added to it. The house itself had been simply restored, and contained a miscellaneous collection of antique material more or less associated with the history of its occupation and of the locality. Around it were the dark, circling hills, wooded, but wild, where the undergrowth hid the traces of the military works. On the eastern and southern slopes, the farmland formerly under the occupation of the troops, and the homesteads that had sheltered the generals of the Continental Army, pathetically betrayed either the impoverishment of the soil or a conspiracy of neglect on the part of generations of husbandmen. Access to the camps of the various divisions was over rough and irregular roads, or by-paths in roundabout ways—in fact, as I remember, the scene impressed me as rather better illustrating to the imagination what a dismal and desolate rendezvous it was at the time Washington and his forlorn hope found it, in the winter of their retreat. But there was one bright spot amid this gloomy prospect which I visualized, and a hopeful promise of rescue and redemption ahead for Valley Forge, and this lay in the wardship of an organization with this purpose in view, incorporated by an Act of Assembly, dated July 5, 1878, "The Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge," an outgrowth of the celebration held there on June 19, 1878, the hundredth anniversary of the evacuation of the campground by the Continental Army. Under the inspiring and eloquent address of Henry Armitt Brown, Esq., of Philadelphia, the country was awakened to the knowledge that the State had within its borders one of the most memorable of the national shrines.

After 1886, the Patriotic Order, Sons of America, succeeded the earlier organization as custodians of the head-

quarters and grounds, and during its tenure, and about 1900, public sentiment had become so widespread, and was so quickened, that a general movement was inaugurated which had for its object the purchase of the entire cantonment by the Federal government; to restore and maintain it in much the same manner as it has done at Gettysburg. To this end "The Valley Forge Park Association" was organized in Philadelphia about this time, and centred its energies on Congress, first having the endorsement of President McKinley toward the project. But while this Association failed to get the legislation it desired, other plans to the same end met with better success, and it was mainly through the earnest efforts of Mr. Francis M. Brooke, of Philadelphia, assisted by several interested citizens working with him, that they successfully appealed to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and obtained not only appropriations for buying the adjacent properties, but the preparation of a bill that was designed to put Valley Forge in the custody of the State. Senator Markley sponsored the bill in the Senate, and Hon. H. C. Boyer fathered it in the House. It became a law, and was signed by Governor Pattison on May 30, 1893. The object recited in the Act stated that it was "For the purpose of perpetuating and preserving the site on which Washington's army was encamped, December 19, 1777, to June 19, 1778, to restore it as nearly as possible in its original condition as a military camp, and maintain it forever as a public park for the enjoyment of the people of this state." Governor Pattison promptly appointed a commission of representative Pennsylvanians to carry out the provisions of the Act, and on the organization of this commission, Mr. Brooke was elected its chairman; and from that day to this, notwithstanding its changing personnel and its various vicissitudes, the commission has bought the bulk of the land from private owners, and has carried on the work of clearing up and restoring the old cantonment in harmony with its history and traditions; so that it stands today transformed — a magnificent achievement to the honor of the state and its citizens.

Within the past thirty years, nearly two thousand acres



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT VALLEY FORGE IN 1887
(Photo by William H. Richardson.)

of the original encampment, including the various headquarters of the generals of divisions, forts, redoubts, intrenchments, outer approaches and other military works, have been recovered, restored and consolidated into a splendid park, with all its natural scenic beauty revealed and enhanced by the skill and art of the topographical engineer and the landscaper; all its conspicuous points brought out, and many of them adorned by the statues of heroes of the Revolution, and other memorials contributed by many states to mark the bivouac of their patriots; among these, there is one erected by the D.A.R. to the memory of the unknown but valorous dead.

Crowning the summit of one of its resplendent ridges rises the majestic Roman arch, the gift of the Nation, and the dominant note in all this picturesque composition. Here and there, among the scenes of this glorified inheritance, may be seen the replicas of the rude huts which partially sheltered the soldiers in that bitter winter of 1777-1778, and these, too, pathetically remind us of War's tragedy—"lest we forget"; but realism is added to the picture when we face the menacing gun-batteries mounted on the knolls and threatening the avenues of approach.

Off in the distant, higher woodland, an observation tower rises above the dark timber, and permits a panoramic view of interlacing vales, the winding Schuylkill and the horizon of the Blue Ridge. Splendid roads, drives and walks lead in unconventional ways to the historic landmarks and scenic vistas; sheep, symbols of Peace, graze the grassy slopes and give an element of vitality to the composition.

Down in the village, at the entrance to the headquarters, a modern railway station has been provided for the better accommodation and convenience of the ever-growing numbers of visitors; and where only hundreds came in the old days, now hundreds of thousands annually make their pilgrimage to the Park by every conceivable mode of conveyance, and pay their respect to the greatest shrine of patriotism in American history.

But this is not all, nor have I the time to mention many other appealing features that can be seen there; there is

one object, however, that stands paramount and apart, for at the threshold of Valley Forge, on the main highway, is the beautiful Washington Memorial Church—a universal tribute of the present generation to the record of an heroic sacrifice, and to the undaunted spirit of an illustrious commander; and this unique creation was the conception of Dr. Burk, whose lofty inspiration, zeal and devotion to a great ideal made possible this epic in stone—the physical expression of patriotic America exalted, sublime and spiritual. The epitome of it all lies in the words of Henry Armitt Brown, as they are carved on one of the panels of the Memorial Arch at Valley Forge:

And here, in this place of sacrifice; in this vale of humiliation; in this valley of the shadow of that death out of which the life of America rose regenerate and free, let us believe with an abiding faith that to them Union will seem as dear, and Liberty as sweet, and Progress as glorious as they were to our fathers, and are to you and me, and that the institutions which have made us happy, preserved by the virtue of our children, shall bless the remotest generations of the time to come."

Lustre Pottery*

By ANNA JARRETT

Lustre ware was made in Egypt in the eleventh century, as is evident from an account of a journey made to that country by Nasir-i-Khusran, in 1047 A.D. He stayed eight months on his first visit and three on his second. "They make at Jonisr (name of both country and capital) all kinds of pottery—translucent—bowls, cups, plates, and they decorate with colors analogous to those of the stuff called Bukalimin: the shades change according to the position given the vase." This Bukalimin, with which the metallic reflection of lustre is compared, was a fine lustrous silk, of a "shot" variety, and made at Tinnis, by Coptic workers, and "nowhere else in the world." Its colors changed "every hour of the day," according to the refraction of the light. Five thousand looms were said to be employed. This Tinnis was a town on an island in what is now known as Lake Merzalah; it was pillaged in 1155 A.D.

This traveler, a Persian of education, was born at Bulkh in 1003 A.D. He was a keen observer of works of art; traveled to the chief cities of Persia, including Rhages, and in India; he dwelt in Damascus, and was conversant with the wares of Persia, Syria, and even China. He greatly admired the lustre films of the tiles, which were a well-established and characteristic industry of Egypt at this time. Tiles of lustre on the Mosque of Sidi-Okba, Kairwan and Tunisia are cited as dating from the ninth century, and as evidence of the existence of a lustre industry at Bagdad, as old as, or older than, that claimed for Egypt. Some authorities say the tiles were imported from Bagdad, and also made on the spot by a potter from Bagdad. Dr. Butler disagrees. He says it

*Read before the Society, November 15, 1924.

is only tradition, as the dates do not agree with industries of the countries of that time. They are more akin to early Egyptian or Coptic.

Of Persian lustre, the spittoons, among the finest examples, were perhaps much needed to save the wonderful carpets. All belong to the thirteenth century. One example of a golden bronze on a white ground is in the Richard collection in London. In 1220 A.D., Persia was invaded by the Mongols, and Chinese artists were introduced into Persia by Ghengis Khan. Then is noticed the use of indigo instead of lapis, the Chinese not being influenced by the Persian industry.

Low temperature for firing was necessary for successful lustre. Cream and ivory, on a reddish-brown clay, was a rosy polychrome vase of the fourteenth century; a Damascus specimen is decorated in blue, with golden lustre on a cream ground, with inscription in Arabic lettering: "Made for Asad of Alexandria by Yousef of Damascus." One rare specimen, either Syrian or Egyptian, has intense blue glaze, on which a decoration of bronze-green lustre is found.

SPANISH

Contracts for pottery was made in 1009 by Loza-Dorado, of whom mention is made in 1350: "At Malaga is made the beautiful gold pottery, which is exported to the farthest countries."

Francis Epimines, date 1384, is a work of extreme rarity. The only known copies (in the Library of Madrid and Palma) in enumerating the products of the kingdom, record the pottery, and especially mention Manises, near Valencia, where the pottery is gilded and painted so well that Popes and Cardinals and Princes marvelled that there could be on earth a work so excellent. An Egyptian chronicler of 1348 mentions Malaga as "an extremely elegant town, whose golden pottery is unrivaled." A Polish traveler, Nicolas Von Popplan, in 1484, tells of Moorish potters occupying a town near Valencia, where they made vessels in blue and gold colors, with which they supplied all Christendom.

TRADE TERMS

Obra de Malica
Melicha
Meliqua

Malaga ware
(Golden pottery)
Loza dorado

René of Anjou, who died in 1480, got pottery direct from Valencia, August 22 and October 16, 1478. In the Godman collection is a Valencia dish, 1450-1495, decorated with vine leaves, alternating deep blue and golden lustre of pearly sheen, with intertwined stems in blue, and a shield of arms, with fleur-de-lys, identified as that of René, of Anjou; it is surmounted by a royal crown, indicating a sovereign house, while on the back is an eagle. René's daughter, Margaret, became, by her marriage with Henry VI, in 1445, queen consort of England, where she lived for some thirty years.

TYPES OF LUSTRE

The technique of Persian lustre does not seem to have changed much over a period of years: the blue and turquoise with golden brown lustre of reddish reflection on a creamy ground, that *may* be tin enamel. Persians were slow to adopt foreign ways—the conquest by Mongols, in 1220 A. D., made little impression on their pottery.

Tile from Manzanderan is 12½ inches square, and represents, in one corner, "Bohram, the hunter" of the Sassanian dynasty, riding on a camel, shooting an arrow at an antelope. The story goes that, proud of his skill in archery, he wished to show it off to a favorite wife. On a camel, he sped to the plain, the wife on the rise of the hump, indolently fingering a mandolin, when he found an antelope asleep. He shot at it with such precision as to graze its ear; the awakened animal tried to brush away the annoyance with its foot; a second arrow transfixed the foot to the horn. The lady was expected to be much impressed by this feat, but coolly remarked: "Practice makes perfect"—for which want of appreciation the disgusted king ordered her to the mountains to perish.

MAJOLICA

That the ware was made here or in the Balearic Islands, Senor Companer Y Ferentes refutes. Majorca was conquered by James I, of Aragon, in 1228, shortly before his Valencian campaign. Companer suggests that the word Majolica, as used in Italy, may have originated from the fact that Spanish earthenware was imported into Italy by Majorcan ships, which, not always able to complete their cargoes with Balearic products, filled up their holds with pottery picked up in Valencian and Catalan ports, Majorca thus becoming a recognized depot among Italian pottery dealers. Companer says: writers on the subject would take more notice of the ships carrying the ware than of the ware itself.

A Venetian document of 1426 prohibits the importation of many things, but not such as "come from Majorca." "Lavori di Majolica" are the subject of an ordinance at Siena in 1476. If lustred ware was a product of Majorca, it is difficult to see why Galgano di Belforte, a potter of Siena, went secretly to Valencia to learn the craft, in 1514, and not to Majorca.

An example of Hispano-Moresque lustre ware is the "Alhambra Vase," now in the Museum of the Palace. Tradition says it was found filled with gold in an underground chamber, by the first Christian governor of the Palace. For many years it stood with other large vessels, exposed to weather and the chance of injury, on the garden terrace, where it was noticed by travelers in the sixteenth century, and by 1818, only a few of the vessels remained, and this vase was for some time in a small room in "the Court of the Fish-pond." It is Amphoric in form, four feet high, one handle missing. Decoration is in blue and tan, and a brown lustre of faint metallic quality; a band of Arabic inscription, a device of leaf and stem; two gazelles (affronted) reversed, in cream and golden lustre, on a blue field. Below, with floral designs in lustre, are medallions in blue; and the tree-of-life pattern alternates inscriptions in Arabic characters, and arabesques complete the design. Panels of the neck are

divided by mouldings, and characteristic strap and floral patterns alternate.

Dr. Barber, in the introduction to his catalogue of the collection of the Hispanic Society of America, contends that after the expulsion of the Moriscos, the Spanish potters, gradually abandoning the process of their Moorish teachers, began to give up the process of the bath of opaque tin enamel, and to adopt a double process of a thin white pipe clay, or slip, covered with a modified glaze in which lead was the principal ingredient. Such a method is assumed, by Dr. Barber, to be cheaper, while the opaque white appearance, characteristic of the tin enamel, would, he thinks, be preserved. The porous slip, with its film of glaze, would be of less specific gravity than the enamel, so that examples treated with slip and glaze would be perceptibly lighter in weight than those treated with tin enamel only; and he claims to be able to distinguish the two varieties by weight, without resorting to the test of hardness.

Uses to which lustre ware was adapted were symbols and coats-of-arms. Christian religious symbolism arose at Byzantium, both personal and religious symbolism passed to Europe; heraldry was not much in use there before the thirteenth century, then became very elaborate. The Arms of Eleanor, daughter of Ferdinand of Castile, the first wife of Edward III, A. D. 1272, were on her tomb in Westminster Abbey; they are the earliest examples in England of two coats-of-arms quartered on one shield. Christians of Alexandria assigned the eagle to St. John the Evangelist. It appears, on a tile now in the British Museum in London, as a part of the arms of Philip, Archbishop of Seville, in the latter part of the thirteenth century. The Apostolic eagle is used as the sinister supporter of the arms of Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand II of Spain, wife of Henry VIII of England, and was also used by her daughter Mary I, of England. It is of frequent occurrence on the back and front of Hispano-Moresque lustre dishes. St. John the Evangelist became the patron saint of Valencia. In this connection, the first words of his Gospel occur on Valencian lustre ware: "In Principio erat Verbum."

In 1609-10 the Moriscos, descendants of the Moors, were expelled from Spain, which was a great economic blunder, depriving Spain of her workers in artistic usefulness. Decadence followed, and the seventeenth century forms of pottery became heavy, with confused decoration, the lustre taking on the deeper tone of copper. A specimen from North Devon, in England, $11\frac{3}{4} \times 8$ in. in size, shows the Virgin, crowned, with Babe, both enclosed in an aureole, all in coppery lustre, and wrapped from head to foot in a deep blue mantle. The background is a floral design in lustre on cream ground, with eight cherub heads in relief around a central group, all framed in a raised border painted in lustre, with a deep blue curved line running through it. Lustre craft lived on in the Spanish Peninsula, but was put to common uses, such as kitchen ware and barber's bowls.

Bowle's History of Spain, 1775, mentions "a fair-looking town of only four streets, two leagues from the capital of Valencia, where they made a copper-coloured ware of great beauty, used for common purposes and for decorating the houses of the working people of the province." These articles were very inexpensive, and not in high repute in Valencia.

In 1780, Sir John Talbot Dillon, traveling in Spain, notes that "the inhabitants of Manises are chiefly potters, who make an earthenware with copper-coloured gilding." Even poor examples are decorated, both back and front, this being the practice of the early potters. The Comte de Laborde, in the early nineteenth century, mentions Manisia as a village north of Valencia. The "Society" of the workmen possesses the secret of the composition of a color which, in the fire, takes the tint and brightness of gilt-bronze. A dish, the property of Mr. A. Wenger, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, was made in 1865, by Senor Juan Castan, of Manises. This family of Castan is stated to have continued the lustre process of pottery without interruption from medieval times. Senor J. Ros is one of the best-known producers of modern pottery of this class.

The official modern lustre vase-and-tile industry of Seville is under the Director and Secretary of the School of Art there.

Many specimens of Valencia ware now in English collections came from Italy, and show the Arms of great Italian houses. The secret of lustre ware seems to have traveled to Italy from Spain in this way. Golzano di Belforte, a potter of Siena, disguising himself in mean apparel, went to Valencia, learned the secret of lustre decoration, and returned to Siena, 1514. From the beginning of the sixteenth century, typical lustre ware of Italy was produced at Deruta, near Perugia (early date uncertain), but by the end of the sixteenth century, the industry had declined, and was finally abandoned. Deruta ware was of heavy "body"; upper side white tin enamel; under side lead glaze, yellow clay showing through. Painting was often done in blue, broad outline; slight shading covered with transparent lustre.

The Beit Collection contains unusual ruby lustre plate, dated 1477. In the Pierport Morgan Collection is a Deruta specimen of enameled earthen-ware in relief, painted in yellow lustre and blue. Central figure; Judith, with the head of Holofernes, made about the early part of the sixteenth century.

The lustre of Gubbio has a splendid ruby tone, and the ware of Deruta and Gubbio is less metallic than that of Spain. The ruby-red stain is given by the penetration of copper vapor into the surface—produced for the sake of color. Gubbio ware was not made before 1517.¹ The Italian ware is not as decorative in itself as that of Spain. The Spanish ware finally found its way to the Lowlands, where Valencia pottery was admitted, free of duty, in Bruges;

¹ Mr. N. H. Moore, in his "The Old China Book," states "to the Saracens were the Italians indebted for the freedom and luxury of the styles they copied, for the use of colour without stint and for the beauty of the lustre which they copied from the Eastern artists. The most famous lustres emanating from Italy come from the city of Gubbio. The master-artist there was Georgio Andreoli, and his fame rests on his ruby lustre, brilliant and gleaming like a polished gem and shading from ruby to claret; on the silver, with the effects of moonlight on the water; on the gold and golden shades and on the green, rarest and most jewel-like of all. Georgio's signed works date from 1519 to 1537.

throughout the estuary, and canal of Zinn, by enactment of Philip of Burgundy, 1433.

The potters of the Netherlands became much at home in Spain in the sixteenth century. Jonan Flores, a Fleming master tile-maker, 1565, was commissioned to do work at the Royal Palace, Madrid. The ware reached England directly, through merchantmen trading at Bristol and the coast-lines of the West. Fragments have been found in an old rubbish heap, some dating from Norman times to the sixteenth century; some, in an old mill-pond, when it was cleaned, in 1840, at St. Ann's Wood-on-Avon; some, close to moorage used by Spanish sailors in trade with Bristol.

English lustre ware of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries covered large spaces; the metallic covering being imitation of metal. John Hancock, of Etruria, 1767-1847, claimed discovery of gold, silver and steel "lustres" at Messrs. Spode's factory at Stoke, for Messrs. Daniel and Brown, who were at that time decorating ware produced by Spode.

Silver lustre brought about one of the earliest uses of platinum. When that decoration was brought to England from Spain, about 1750, English chemists became much interested in platinum and its salts. This lustre ware was produced throughout Staffordshire from 1785; Etruria, 1780-1810.

In 1838, electro-plate was introduced. The general method was to dip ware, when prepared and glazed, in a bath of platinic chloride and dilute spirits of tar. When dry, the article was baked for twelve hours in an oven at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, the organic matter being thus burnt away, leaving a fast deposit of metallic platinum on the surface, inside and out. The Resist pattern was taken out by stick, the pattern was painted on by brush in an adhesive "resisting" mixture: brown shellac in spirits of wine. Then followed the platinum bath, the pattern adhering to all parts not painted. A second firing removed the substance, the pattern being left; blue, yellow and other colors were used with this method.

Stencilled patterns were in use between 1810 and 1825, on examples from Yorkshire, Doncaster, Rotherham, Castleham and old Leeds pottery. Gold lustre was made with gold chloride solution in balsam of sulphur, or other oily substance. The effect was thin and beautiful, but Wedgwood² found it did not wear well. The familiar purple resist came from Staffordshire in the early nineteenth century. The gold lustre, over mottled ground of blue or purple, was made at Swansea. Gold on red produced a very rich effect, and when a darker effect was desired, copper was added.

Rare examples of about 1820 show gilding on a copper-lustre ground, but the application of gold fixed to the glaze of pottery and porcelain, now usual, was an invention of the middle of the eighteenth century—before that leaf gold was attached by size. Wedgwood had much trouble with this method.

Swansea, Newcastle and Sunderland had great success in applied relief designs combined with English lustre. About 1830, gaudy flowers in relief, and bands of blue, cream and pink, show the degradation of the ware. Transfer patterns, printed in black, brown, gray and lilac, were much used in panels, or patches, combined with lustre and sentimental doggerel; trite moralities and political allusions are often found in transfer prints on the ware.

A tray, late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, is of painted copper-lustre, printed in black, with a ship, inscribed "May peace and plenty on our nation smile, and

² While the silver lustre was originally made as a sham, the sturdy gold lustre stood on its own feet from the first. It is claimed by the supporters of Wedgwood that he first made the copper-and-gold-lustered wares in 1776, from a receipt given him by Dr. Fothergill. The first idea was to apply it only to frames, but it proved so unexpectedly ornamental that numberless beautiful articles were made. The gold lustre was exceptionally fine, and honey-cups of simple but beautiful form became very popular. The lustre jugs come of every size, from the tiny ones holding but a couple of spoonsful—mere toys—to the great ones for tavern use holding a gallon or more.—Ed.

Trade with Commerce bless the British Isle." Much English lustre, so-called, hardly comes under the category of real lustre. Mr. de Morgan, "the Lancastrian," working for the Messrs. Pilkington, about 1856, made real lustre, directly affected by the Gubbio tradition.

ENGLISH TRUE-LUSTRE

Ingredients and methods for making the clay and colors, sound formidable, viz: "Fine, white earth from a distance, brought on donkeys; an iron pestle, 36 pounds weight for breaking clay; large vat, wooden bat for beating the deposit; mill of two stones for grinding enamel, seived; four pounds white lead in rolls, and 23 pounds of tin laid in." For colors: "safre," an earth obtained by calcining cobalt; when mixed with vitreous bodies, it vitrifies, and at the same time assumes a strong blue color. Three pounds copper fillings, common salt as a fix for the metallic compounds, and faggots of goose wood. Patterns on parchment, supplied by Guillaume. A dozen eggs for mixing colors, furnished by Jehame, the hen-wife, at one time; twelve loads of fuel (charcoal) for kilns; tongs; brushes. Daily pay was 12 francs in modern money. This list is dated August, 1385.

One formula includes silver and copper macerated in vinegar. After first firing, take from furnace in "biscuit," dusted, dipped in white enamel.

Ingredients of enamel. Oxide of tin and lead, milled, and poured through a sieve, and reduced with water to a consistency of milk. Thickness of enamel coating should not be thicker than glove leather when dry; paint as desired with brushes of goats' and asses' hair, and the finest of the whiskers of rats and mice. After drying, apply thin coat of transparent glaze of lead; more liquid than the enamel, and painted over finished work, and again dried. The lustre pigment applied with a brush, and placed in a special furnace, exposed to direct action of flames. This special "secret" furnace sounds of simple construction, but probably the "half was not told." Three to four feet square; dry spoon for the smoking process. When cool, soaked in

soap-suds; dried with flannel; and beauty was developed by gentle rubbing with wood ashes. This notation follows: Frequently only six pieces out of 100 come true; the art is beautiful, and when the pieces are good, the joy is gold.

Report of Annalist for 1925*

By SARAH E. FRY

New record created by 1925 for Achievements, Prosperity and Progress throughout the entire County. Greatest year in the history of Norristown since it was incorporated into a borough in 1812, one hundred and fourteen years ago.

Completion of the new Valley Forge Hotel.

Formation of the Norristown Chamber of Commerce.

Opening of the new County bridge over the Schuylkill river at DeKalb street, connecting Norristown and Bridgeport, at a cost of \$500,000.

Completion of the new bank and office building of the Norristown-Penn Trust Company, at a cost of about \$1,000,000.

Completion of the \$600,000 Thomas J. Stewart Junior High School.

Construction of the Norristown Auditorium, by Frank Leichthammer, at a cost of \$100,000.

Dedication of the \$80,000 hall of the Norristown Lodge of Elks.

Opening of the new Curren Arcade, owned by J. Frank Boyer and Joseph Curren.

Progress on the new auditorium of the Norristown Lodge of Moose.

Completion of the Montgomery and Hillcrest Annex Apartments by former State Senator James S. Boyd, at a cost of \$200,000.

*Read before the Society, February 21, 1925.

Work started on the Westmar Theatre and Gloria Theatre.

About two hundred and fifty new dwelling-houses were also completed.

The County also derived great benefit from the spirit of progress. In every suburb new houses are in evidence. Montgomery County is getting to be a place of beautiful homes. Trolley and 'bus lines contribute much to the development. Good roads a big asset.

STATISTICS

Number of acres planted to corn, 33,050. Production, 1,920,205 bushels. Value, \$1,478,557.86.

Number of acres planted to wheat, 20,590. Production, 428,272 bushels. Value, \$608,146.24.

Number of apple trees: bearing, 100,428; non-bearing, 54,270.

Number of peach trees, 73,214.

Idle farms, 94,000 acres. The highest price paid for farm land per acre, \$200 or \$300. The nearness to a town controls the price. A number of farms have been sold for \$1,000.

Bank clearings for 1925, \$55,109,799.06.

Cost of Governmental Machinery for twelve months of 1925, \$1,660,698.31.

Population, estimated, July 1, 1925, 216,225.

Number of fires in Norristown in 1925, 92. Fire loss, \$127,465, the largest for some time.

Montgomery County has 606 manufacturing plants, which employ 32,000 workers. (Figures compiled by B. Brooke Barrett, for the County Manufacturers' Association.)

Marriage licenses issued in the County in 1925, 1,651.

Deaths in the County: cancer, 208; heart disease, 446; pneumonia, 221; tuberculosis, 217; all causes, 2,706.

RECORD OF DEATHS

1925

- Jan. 29. Mrs. Margaret Schall Hunsicker, aged 85, widow of Charles Hunsicker, noted Montgomery county lawyer.
- Feb. 9. George Tilkington, aged 102, oldest resident of Conshohocken.
- Feb. 9. James Lawler, prominent Councilman.
- Feb. 10. John Howard Wood, founder of the John H. Wood Company, operators of a chain of drug stores.
- Feb. 12. Dr. E. M. Furey, a native of Norristown.
- Feb. 18. John H. Spang, prominent in Perkiomen section, partner in Norristown Sanitary Market.
- Feb. 19. Mrs. Walter H. Corson, of Plymouth; at Santa Barbara, California, of congestion of the lungs. She was a noted artist.
- Feb. 22. George Heffelfinger, a Civil War veteran.
- Feb. 23. William Seckels, Civil War veteran, aged 80.
- Feb. 28. John Hampton, county official, aged 83.
- Mar. 9. Margaret K. Kline; was born in the house in which she died.
- Mar. 14. Edward D. Coulson; born in Lower Providence township.
- Mar. 16. William Montague, carpet manufacturer.
- Mar. 24. William Kneas, lumber merchant.
- Apr. 3. Nicholas H. Larzalere, prominent lawyer; born in Warminster township, Bucks county.
- Apr. 28. P. Frank Hunter, Assistant Treasurer, Pennsylvania Railroad; at one time president of the Norristown Town Council.
- Apr. 29. Dennis Farley, member of Massachusetts Legislature when President Coolidge was assemblyman.

- May 18. C. Howard Harry, well-known dentist.
- May 28. Joseph Rowan, Civil War veteran; born in Lancaster.
- June 1. Dr. Alice Bennett; twenty years at State Hospital.
- June 1. Estelle Major; wife of Charles Major.
- July 15. William Rutt; Philadelphia Trust Company official.
- Aug. 17. Donald Rambo; died in Maine.
- Aug. 17. Henry C. Warner, proprietor of Warner's Department Store.
- Oct. 1. Rev. Harry W. Bright, pastor of the Reformed Church of the Ascension.
- Oct. 12. Frank Stiles, member of wholesale candy company.
- Oct. 27. Samuel Kohn, formerly vice-president of Montgomery Trust Company.
- Nov. 9. Paul M. Brooke, attorney and trust officer for Glenside Trust Company.
- Nov. 10. William Yeager, pioneer florist, aged 91.
- Nov. 12. Richard Kearns, Sr., of Coatesville, at one time a resident of Bridgeport.
- Nov. 16. Dr. J. Edwin Grauley, former pastor of Haws Avenue M. E. Church.
- Nov. 23. Mary A. Rees, teacher in Norristown for fifty years.
- Nov. 30. Ambrose Umstead, Collector of Internal Revenue.
- Dec. 7. Joseph Miller, teacher in Thomas J. Stewart Junior High School.
- Dec. 17. Ellen Thomas, temperance and suffrage worker.
- Dec. 17. Joseph V. Bean, at one time principal of Chain Street School.
- Dec. 22. Henry A. Boorse.

- Dec. 22. Harry L. Yost, merchant, civic worker and church official.
- Dec. 24. John E. Overholtzer; merchant for fifty years, great lover of nature, and philanthropist.
- Dec. 26. Oliver K. Bean; former hotel owner.
- Dec. 30. Albert Parker; well-known optician.

CHRONOLOGY

- Jan. 2. Snow six inches deep, following small-sized blizzard.
- Jan. 23. Montgomery Transit lines are still snow-bound between Lederach and Harleysville.
- Jan. 24. Eclipse of sun is viewed by thousands, aided by ideal weather conditions.
- Jan. 30. A jump of \$2,500,000 in real estate values is recorded this year by local assessors.
- Feb. 12. Interest increasing in campaign to feed birds until snow disappears.
- Feb. 19. New Armory for Norristown assured, as bill is placed before Legislature.
- Feb. 21. Removal of County Prison to farm and quarry advocated by G. M. Fratt in Legislature.
- Feb. 28. Improvement of Welsh Road at an expenditure of \$301,913.50 will directly benefit seven large townships.
- Mar. 6. Increase of value in last three years of property listed for county tax purposes is \$107,777,939.
- Mar. 14. Nearly one thousand quarts of whiskey, alcohol and wine, seized by police in raids, distributed to hospitals.
- Apr. 2. County aid is sought on road from Spring Mount to Delphi; over two thousand automobiles use it daily.

- Apr. 10. Twenty-three miles of township roads in county to be rebuilt and maintained by state funds.
- June 4. Intense heat forces change in school schedules; no afternoon sessions.
- June 6. Mercury at one hundred degrees reaches new mark on sixth day of the hottest spell ever known at this time of year.
- June 8. The dirigible, "Los Angeles," flies over town twice within twenty-four hours.
- June 22. Forest fire is subdued after raging three days at Gulph Mills; several valuable properties saved.
- June 23. County gives \$11,000, to match like amount from Souderton, to build new concrete road.
- July 8. Heat wave in this vicinity is broken by electrical storm.
- Sept. 15. Montgomery County Fair opened at Hatfield.
- Oct. 30. First snow of the year fell at 7.30 in the morning.
- Nov. 16. Mrs. N. Howland Brown, of Norristown, elected Regent of Pennsylvania Daughters of American Revolution.
- Nov. 14. Grand Jury recommended immediate enlargement of Court House.
- Nov. 28. \$600,000 mailed by local banking institutions to Christmas Club savers.
- Dec. 7. Bill introduced in Congress by Representative Watson, at request of "Times Herald," to halt misuse of mails for unfair mercantile competition.
- Dec. 28. Hon. John Faber Miller took oath of office as President Judge of Courts of Oyer and Terminer and Common Pleas of Montgomery County.
- Dec. 28. Burgess James W. Potter was accorded a testimonial banquet at Tom Brown's Inn, and administered the oath to Burgess-elect Hendrickson.

Textile Exhibit*

A rather unusual chapter in Pennsylvania history was unfolded at the spring meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Saturday, April 25, 1925, in Historical Hall, this borough. It was concerned with "hooked" rugs, woven coverlets and patchwork quilts, and a bewildering array of each was exhibited.

In the morning, beginning at 11 o'clock, a display of rugs was made by a group of women from Morgantown, Berks county, and also an exhibition of rugs in the making. Miss Lizzie Kutz, of Morgantown, is head of a little colony of rug-makers, composing members of four families, who are kept busy, all the time, designing and making. Two of the women brought their frames, and showed the visitors the manner of "hooking" the narrow strips of wool into the canvas, on which the free-hand designs are roughly sketched. A number of specimens were sold, and orders taken for others.

The makers present were Miss Lizzie Kutz, Mrs. J. A. Zook, Miss Elsie Kutz and Miss Emma Stoltzfus, Miss Alice Petersheim and Mrs. Levi Petersheim, whose specialty is braided rugs. The Berks county visitors came to Norristown in four autos, there being thirteen in the party, men and women. Belonging to the sect known as Amish, they wore plain garb.

The luncheon has become a feature of the meetings, and the guests did full justice to the good things provided by the hospitality committee, Miss Helen E. Richards, chairman.

The afternoon session was devoted to a talk by Adjutant General Frank D. Beary, of Harrisburg, a high authority

*Accompanying an address delivered before the Society by Adjutant General Frank H. Beary, April 25, 1925.

on the weaving of coverlets. General Beary dwelt interestingly on the history of weaving, which he considers one of the very earliest of industries. He described the hand-loom, and gave many illustrations of the development of the art, which was at its height in this country from the early part of the nineteenth century until the Civil War, by which time machinery had superseded the shown process of hand-weaving.

In response to the invitation given at the February meeting of the Historical Society, at least fifty woven coverlets and patchwork quilts were loaned for this exhibition.

A special frame was made on which to show them, and the president of the society, Irvin P. Knipe, Esq., told something about each specimen, as it was exhibited. Much Montgomery county history marks the making of the bed-coverings, and many well-known names were mentioned.

The woven coverlets were varied in design, and to the expert the different methods of weaving, and the colors, showed to which period the example belonged. The appended list gives some idea of the families represented among the exhibitors.

There were three wonderful "Sunburst" patterns of quilts, each in itself a work of art. The infinite patience required for the thousands of patches put together with such marvelous skill, spoke of a day less restless than the present, and brought to mind pictures of quiet home life.

There were quilts of "tulip" design, as well as many of geometric patterns, and a number were autographed, the ink now faded, but in most cases legible.

Quite as interesting as the designs of the patches were the quilting patterns, showing the individuality of the designer.

The following is a complete list of exhibits, showing, also, by whom exhibited.

1—Miss Amanda Streeper—Made by her great grandmother, 1800-1820.

2, 3 and 4—Mrs. J. R. Yost; from Mrs. Yost's mother

and grandmother, both named Smith. Number 4, 170 years old, is from Mrs. Reiff, Skippack.

5 and 6—Mrs. Ralph Hunt, Jeffersonville. From family of Harvard Walker, New Centerville; probably 100 years old.

7—Martha J. Schultz; 1842. Mrs. Schultz lived with Christian Dull in 1841. The dogs killed a number of his sheep, and Mr. Dettra told Martha if she pulled the wool he would have a coverlet made for her. This is the coverlet.

8—George and Anna Highley, 1842; grandparents of Miss Nancy P. Highley; exhibited by latter.

9—Mrs. Hannah G. Schultz.

10—Mrs. C. G. Kremer; quilt about 90 years old.

11—Belonged in the family of John K. Ralston, Brandywine Manor; exhibited by Miss Isabel G. Ralston.

12, 13—Mrs. J. O. Knipe.

14—Made by ~~Mrs.~~ John Condon; about 1875.

15—Lydia A. Conden.

16, 17—Mrs. William F. Moyer.

18—Mrs. Montgomery Evans; quilt made for Mrs. J. Grier Ralston in 1846 (patchwork).

19—Mrs. Irvin P. Knipe; star quilt made by Mrs. John Fritz, Bucks County.

20—Miss Anna E. Davis, Conshohocken; woven by man, about 1820.

21—Mrs. Charles M. Todd; made by her great-grandmother.

22—Mrs. William A. Weber, 1842; formerly in family of Rev. Chas. Lukens, Port Royal, Frankford, 1842.

23, 24, 25—Mrs. Andora S. Koons.

26, 27—Mrs. Samuel S. Hartranft; made by mother of Governor Hartranft.

28—Mrs. J. G. Wilson, State Hospital; made in Susquehanna County, time of Civil War.

29—Dr. J. G. Wilson; 100 years old. Such weaving is now done at Berea College, Kentucky. The art of weaving these coverlets was lost, and re-discovered by Berea College.

30—Charles Shaw; Lord's Supper, handwoven linen communion cloth; 100 years old.

31—Miss Grace E. Bean; made by her great-grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Kriebel, in 1860.

32—Mrs. Karl Keffer; 1820-1825; made in Indiana. Flax raised, thread spun, linen woven and coverlet made by Mrs. Lucy Gibbons Keffer, in Indiana.

33, 34, 35—Mrs. Frank Rittenhouse; all very old; 33 woven for Rachel and David Rittenhouse, and given to their daughter, Charlotte Rittenhouse, who was born 1799. 34, 35, patchwork quilts made by Charlotte Rittenhouse; born, 1799; died, 1893.

36—Mrs. William M. Gearhart; 1817.

37—Mrs. W. H. Poley; made in 1838 by Michael Weand, uncle of the late Judge Weand. Made for Mary Ann Bigoney, mother of Mrs. J. O. Knipe.

38—Mrs. William H. Poley.

39—Mrs. F. E. Craft; 1844. Yarn was spun and dyed by her great-grandmother, Ellen Hampton, of Bucks County, and woven in New Britain, Bucks County, in 1844.

40, 41, 42, 43—Samuel Yeakle.

44—Miss Margaret Blackfan; more than 100 years old.

45—Mrs. George R. Kite.

46, 47—Mrs. George Corson, Plymouth Meeting. Spun and woven by mother of Amos Lukens, before 1826. Amos Lukens was the first husband of Mary Caley Baynes.

48, 49—Mrs. H. Oscar Young. Quilted by Sarah Schofield Wilson, Whitemarsh, grandmother of Mrs. Young.

50—Mrs. M. B. Dingleton; 1805. Woven by Abraham Hallman in his own shop, near what is now Arcola, in 1825.

51, 52, 53—General Frank Beary.

54—Dr. and Mrs. N. B. Shearer, Worcester; made about 100 years ago; contains autographs of eighty relatives or friends. Made by Elizabeth Engard Shearer, Fort Washington, Pa.

The idea of the coverlet and quilt exhibit was that of Irvin P. Knipe, Esq., who was his own committee, but was aided by different members of the Society, men and women. Mr. Knipe, at the conclusion of the meeting, thanked all who had helped make the exhibit one of the finest of any time. He regretted that it was not possible to have photographs of the articles, as he considered many of them superior to those pictured in Eliza C. Hall's book of quilts and coverlets. Mr. Knipe expressed the gratitude of the Society to the Berks County rug makers, who had so graciously accepted his invitation to show their art at this meeting.

The attendance was the largest ever known at a meeting of the Society. The lecture room was well filled in the morning, and in the afternoon the library and hall were crowded, many standing throughout the entire talk of General Beary, and the exhibition of coverlets and quilts.

The hospitality committee, Miss Helen E. Richards and her many aides, did everything possible for the entertainment of the guests, and Mr. Knipe was assisted in describing the exhibits by the Misses Katharine and Emily Preston.

Note: As General Beary's address was extempore, we give the very complete report of it, and of the exhibit itself, as published in the "Norristown Register," April 27, 1925, amplified by further data communicated to the Society by exhibitors and others.—Ed.

The Boyertown Ore Mines*

By HON. L. P. G. FEGLEY

INTRODUCTION

Approximately one hundred and fifty people of the Historical Society of Montgomery County made a pilgrimage through parts of Berks County on Saturday afternoon, and stopped off at Boyertown to view the Boyertown Ore Mines. Hon. L. P. G. Fegley, of Boyertown, was asked to address this body of people when they arrived in Boyertown, giving them the history of the mines. Mr. Fegley said in part: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen; although born, raised, and lived in the neighborhood of the Boyertown mines continuously, little did I think that at any time during my long period of life, I should be called upon to speak to such a literary audience as the Historical Society of Montgomery County, but there is a maxim which says: "When duty calls it is ours to obey."

First, I, in behalf of our citizens, want to welcome you to our town. It is in response to that call and obedience to that duty that I will endeavor to give you an abstract or history of our Boyertown mines.

HISTORY

As early as July 29, 1718, David Powell obtained a patent for 227 acres known as the "Furnace Tract," situate in Colebrookdale Township, Berks county, extending before and around us to the northern borough limits, to Gabelsville and to Morysville, where the furnace was.

*Read at an outing of the Society, October 3, 1925.

June 4, 1719, Powell sold this land to Thomas Rutter, and May 22, 1733, Samuel Potts, of Pottstown, obtained an interest in the same. These parties were the first to develop the mineral resources of this land. This brought on the erection of a furnace in 1720 by the iron men of Reading—the Eckerts.

December 29, 1769, the said owners sold this land to Henry Stauffer, reserving one acre where the vein cropped out, and also reserving the mineral right over the whole, holding themselves, however, liable for damages resulting from mining operations.

Subsequently, a claim for damages was made, when the owners of the "mineral right" purchased six acres at that point, known then as the Red Bank, and under title became the property of Robert and Morris Lewis, but was leased by the Phoenix Iron Co. which company was the first to carry on extensive operations and the first to install machinery for increase in products. The Phoenix Company was the first to use steam in 1855, and continued operations at the old mines until 1881.

From that time on, the Phoenix Company continued their operations southward, confining themselves to the said one-acre lot, but all slope mining at about forty-five degrees. This slope is about four hundred feet long, and yielded fifty-five per cent black magnetic ore.

The first ore discovered was at the rear of what is now the commons at the corner of Third and Walnut streets, back of the home of an aged gentleman, now in our presence, Dr. Joel B. Bower, at about one hundred feet at the rear of the Doctor's premises, on the surface. Steps as though going down into a cave or cellar were the means of getting out the ore, mined by men, and carried away by women in old-fashioned bread baskets, to the furnace which I am free to say was the first furnace erected in Pennsylvania, and if you will pardon the digression from the subject at issue, I will say that Berks county was founded in 1752. There were many furnaces and so-called forges in Berks where much iron-ore existed. All located along some streams and thickly wooded territory, for charcoal was then the available fuel for furnace purposes.

Further investigation will doubtless reveal additional facts with respect to some of our industries both before and after the Revolutionary War, and these may modify certain statements made, and opinions expressed. The furnace near Boyertown was erected by Thomas Rutter, Anthony Morris, James Lewis and Thomas Potts. Special mention of it is made in "Watson's Annals," in the "Potts Memorial" and in the exhaustive chapter on "Iron Making in Pennsylvania," by James M. Swank, and in the Centennial Exhibition catalogue.

The facts about its inception, operations and abandonment are involved in considerable obscurity, but it is generally conceded that this was the first furnace in Pennsylvania.

Thomas Rutter died in 1730, but at his death he, according to his will, did not own any part or interest in this furnace property; it was owned by twelve individuals; in equal parts; viz.: Thomas Rutter, Samuel Preston, Edward Fream, Nathaniel French, John Laycock, George Boon, Anthony Morris, Alexander Woodrop, William Pyewell, George Mifflin, William Attwood and Thomas Potts.

Pig iron sold at that time for \$15.00 per ton, and to farmers and country, castings twice that of pig iron. Stove grate plates inscribed "Colebrookdale, 1763" were exhibited at our Centennial in 1876, and the furnace was abandoned soon after this casting, like many others.

The first ore excavated and brought to the surface was at the Commons above-mentioned out of a slope extending about forty-five degrees northward to a depth of four hundred feet, with a gangway northward in the direction of the Reformed Church (with the clock, that you see before us, from this hillside), but there wasn't sufficient quantity and quality of iron ore and it was abandoned at a point just before it reached the site of the then Union Church (Lutheran and Reformed). When that slope was abandoned, another one was extended southward (both slopes in which horse power was used) and it was not until 1855 that steam was used, introduced by the Phoenix Iron Company, who were then the main operators of our mines.

James Ellis, the first manager of the Phoenix Mines, of said Company, was burned to death under rather suspicious circumstances, savoring of robbery and murder, or through self-combustion, or negligence of the miners' tallow candles, in a large frame building at the corner of Third and Walnut streets, on the site of the present Boyertown Marble Works, which burned down in 1869.

The ore was conveyed by wagons propelled by six mules, single file, until Burdan's hill, in Montgomery county, was reached, when five of the mules of each team, four abreast, helped drag the load through the muddy roads up the hill, one trip being made one day and two the next day.

The vein of the Phoenix mines continued at a still greater depth beyond Reading avenue, until it reached what was designated, and ever since called, "The California Mines." In 1905-6, the present owners, the Boyertown Ore Company, pumped the water out, excavated and took out ore, and shipped it to the Warwick Furnace at Pottstown. Here a slope of forty-five degrees extended southward to a depth of five hundred and fifty-five feet.

The building contained two large engines of one hundred and fifty horse-power each, with four large boilers. There you find another cave-in, but gradually being filled.

In 1859, William Binder purchased fourteen acres of this mine land from James Ellis, and used the surface for from land until March 6, 1872, when he leased it to Henry and Jacob Gabel, Griffith Jones and Jacob and Isaac Fegley, for twenty years. June, 1874, the lease was extended to fifty years.

As is frequently the case in industries of this nature, accidents occur, oftentimes through carelessness, and I therefore quote those of the most serious nature.

May 26, 1876, a fly-wheel of eighteen feet in diameter, at the Warwick mines, bursted, and knocked off the right lower limb of Ephraim Rohrbach, the foot of which limb was later found in the ruins. It also knocked off two fingers of his right hand. The accident was caused by the too rapid speed of the wheel.

February 22, 1879, at the Gabel Mines, at a depth of four hundred feet below the surface, where three drifts were made, one thirty-six feet long, an explosion took place and fearfully mangled the bodies of Jonathan Moyer and Jacob Gruber. The other miners nearby, who miraculously escaped, were Nathaniel Biehl, Jere. Gehris, William Floyd, Jackson Laity, Jonathan Heller, William Mutter and Henry Bollinger.

The most serious, however, was that in No. 2 of the Gabel mines, along the Englesville road, when the skip or bucket fell to the bottom of the six hundred and eighty-three-foot depth of the shaft, while the engineer, Henry Dengler, was giving attention to the burial of an old miner in the adjoining cemetery. There were five in the bucket: Casper Klebe, Keely Hagey, John Quick and Isaac Gehris. Isaac Gehris was the only one who escaped alive, but he was crippled for life.

In 1917 John Mutter, evidently through carelessness on his own part, was crushed to death in No. 2 shaft. At this time the skip or bucket was not brought to the surface, and the mines became almost abandoned.

In 1883, Gabel, Jones & Gabel opened a second shaft on what was originally the Ritter tract. The John Rhoads Mining Company opened a shaft October, 1883, on what is now the Tyson property, with equally rich iron ore. The united production of these mines was about six thousand tons per month. It is conservatively estimated that nearly one million tons of ore have been excavated and removed from the combined deposits.

In 1901, the Boyertown Ore Company, organized to carry on the mines, was capitalized at \$300,000.00.

In January, 1902, William G. Rowe, of Reading, a practical mine operator, identified with this iron ore plant for many years, became the purchaser for a syndicate of capitalists. Mr. Rowe is since deceased.

You may, in these, my rambling remarks, conjecture as to the present condition of the mines, and the prospect of re-opening them. I am constrained to say that the entire excavations are completely flooded.

In 1905-6, the Eastern Steel Company bored at three different places in yonder field, toward Second street, at a maximum depth of five hundred feet, and found extensive veins, yielding about fifty-seven per cent of magnetic ore; but evidently owing to the expense connected therewith, further negotiations were abandoned, although I will now spring a surprise upon you, and say that Schwab, at that time, was on the premises upon two occasions, and finally said, "Show me the ore, and I will buy the plant, giving you \$1,000,000.00, of which I will pay you \$275,000.00 cash, and the balance in Bethlehem Steel securities."

The old mine bosses were: James Ellis, Tom Gay, Wiloughby Conner, Richard Richard, Jacob Schupp. The officers at present are: Manager and Superintendent, Vincent Clarke; President, A. S. Ammerman, Trenton, N. J.; Secretary, George W. Lex, Philadelphia; Treasurer, Dr. Wilson.

The Boyertown mines built up and maintained our town until they ceased operations, when the cigar factories came, putting away the labor by men, and in lieu thereof using female help. The women in cigar factories earned more than the men did, who at that time worked for ninety cents a day, although contract mining, as in our coal regions, brought higher wages.

(Mr. Fegley then introduced Jonas Reitnauer, Boyertown's oldest citizen, who was a blacksmith for the mines. He also introduced Dr. Joel Bower and Vincent Clarke, who later conducted a sight-seeing expedition through the buildings.)

History of Exeter Meeting*

By CHARLES LEE

One of the first questions you will ask, will be, when was this house built? I am unable to tell you, but it was before the year 1800, probably several years before that date. There is no mention of it on the minutes of the Meeting, and it was probably built by individual contributions.

There were two meeting-houses here, in what was then Oley township, before the present one was built. The first was built in 1726, of round logs; but this was found to be too small, and in 1736 a larger one was erected, also of round logs.

There was but one place of worship in this locality, erected before the Friends' Meeting, and that was by the Swedes, who built a house near where Douglassville¹ now stands.

Many of the Friends, who first located in this vicinity, came from Gwynedd, Montgomery county, and Exeter Monthly Meeting was established by Gwynedd Friends in 1737. As early as 1723, Gwynedd Monthly Meeting appointed George Boone, to keep a true account of births and burials occurring here. George Boone came from England in 1717, and in 1720 moved to Exeter.

He was the grandfather of Daniel Boone, the Kentucky pioneer; he erected a log cabin, in which he lived until his death in 1744.²

*Read at an outing of the Society, October 3, 1925.

¹ *Morlatton* was the name given to this neighborhood; the Swedes' church referred to, is now known as St. Gabriel's.—Ed.

² Daniel Boone was the son of Squire and Sarah (Morgan) Boone, who were married at Gwynedd Meeting-house, in Philadelphia (now Montgomery) county, 7-23-1720.—Ed.

One of the first Friends to settle in Oley was Anthony Lee, who located there, near where Pleasantville now stands, in 1713; he having come from England in 1700, when twenty-two years of age. He was my great-great-grandfather.

From here Friends moved to other localities, and meetings were established at Maidencreek, Reading, Pottstown, Robeson, Catawissa, Muncy, etc.

I have no record of the whole number of Friends who have been members of this Monthly Meeting, but in the year 1827, there were two hundred and seventy-six members.

The graveyard was covered all over; about 1818, one half of it was filled up, and since that time, there have been nearly two hundred interments. There is no record of those who were buried before it was filled up, but there were probably four hundred, making a total of six hundred.

Meetings are held here two or three times a year; the next one will be on the 18th of October, 1925, at 1.30 P.M.

A cordial invitation to attend is extended to all.

Mr. Lee, the writer, and his sister, are the only remaining members of this Meeting.

Daniel Boone was born on a farm near here in 1733, and with his parents removed to North Carolina in 1750, when he was seventeen years of age. The Boones were very numerous here for many years, and there are still a number of their descendants living in this vicinity. The early Lincolns were also members of this Meeting; the Lincoln homestead is but a few miles from here. It was here that John Lincoln, great-grandfather of President Abraham Lincoln, was born; he, with many others, migrated to Virginia, about 1760; thence to Kentucky, later.



EXETER MEETING-HOUSE
(Photo by Gilbert Cope. Courtesy of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

Conshohocken's Seventy-fifth Anniversary *

By the MISSES MARY T. and ELIZABETH S. COLLINS

Ringling out joyously tales of town gladness, tolling out sorrowfully events of borough sadness, through the seventy-five years of Conshohocken's history, the Old Bell of Conshohocken rang out the most triumphant tale of its colorful career, on the days of the seventh, ninth and tenth of November, nineteen hundred and twenty-five, when its metallic tongue was again the voice of the community—this time the voice of a great community pageant, that celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of the Borough of Conshohocken, and led up to a town-wide, all-day, dual celebration of the diamond anniversary of the borough, and the national holiday of Armistice Day, on November eleventh.

Two thousand persons witnessed the four performances of the magnificent pageant, the most ambitious of any amateur presentations ever attempted here, and held in the spacious auditorium of the Conshohocken High School. Two hundred persons of all nationalities, ages and creeds, representing virtually all of the town organizations, participated in the review of the history of the borough conceived by the Conshohocken Community Center. Miss Dorothy Elderdice, formerly of the Dramatic Department of the Western Maryland College and now director of the recreational activities of West Palm Beach, Florida, assembled the episodes from historical material furnished by a special committee, and directed the drama.

To the roll of the old, iron bell, placed in a frame setting at the right of the large stage, J. Burnett Holland, Esq., Assistant District Attorney of Montgomery County, lent his

*Read before the Society, November 21, 1925.

sonorus voice. Little Claudia Fairbairn showed an intelligence beyond her scant eight years, as the Child of Conshohocken, with little Helen Griffith as the alternate. To these small girls, asking for the early history of their town in child-like simplicity, did the Old Bell weave its story, indicating, in a prologue before each episode, its particular part in the history of the Borough.

With the weird, expectant beating of the tom-toms, the first episode was dramatically opened with the marching of the Indian chiefs. Followed then the Indian squaws, whose colorful costume proclaimed them members of the Degree of Pocohontas, the wives of the chiefs, who were members of the Washita Tribe of Red Men. Lester Robinson was "Shakhoppah," one of the early Indian chieftains of this region, who was instrumental in the treaty-making with William Penn's agent, well characterized by Spencer L. Jones. Swan Swanson, natively known as Sven Scoota, and his family, descendants of whom are still living in this vicinity, was portrayed by George Lynn Coane, of the Main Line, whose wife is a direct descendant of the old Swedish settler. Friends of 1683, Swedish, Irish and Welsh settlers, were seen in the persons of Plymouth Meeting Friends, and girls of the High School; a native Welsh song was sung by Mrs. John Quinn, who was in Welsh costume.

The bell now rings out the story of Washington's stay in Whitemarsh, but a few miles from what is now Conshohocken, in that momentous winter of '77. Bertram L. Caine portrayed the majestic Washington, both in appearance and action; he is shown with his generals, Wayne, Sullivan and Greene, represented respectively by George Hause, Marvin Hoagland and James B. Ray, at his Whitemarsh headquarters. The Episode, written by Francis E. Collins, a member of the Historical Committee of the Pageant and a member of this Society, was a truthful reproduction of that episode in national history. William MacKenzie, as a Continental soldier, tells of the crying needs of his comrades. T. J. Raser, Jr., is an orderly.

Contrasting forcefully with the cold seriousness of the Whitemarsh scene is the gay party which old Peter Legaux



GROUP FROM HISTORICAL PAGEANT,
CONSHOHOCKEN CENTENNIAL

gave in honor of the Marquis de LaFayette, upon his visit to the Legaux home, now the Spring Mill Country Club, in Spring Mill. Mrs. Alan Jones, a direct descendant of the famous Frenchman, directed and wrote the Legaux episode, and took the part of the wife of the host. Alan W. Jones enacted the part of Peter, and Hamilton Smith made a striking figure as the beloved French general. Guests at the party were: Mrs. John Righter Wood, William Ewing, Polly Wood, Constance Griffith, Dorothy Griffith, Blanche Smith and Charlotte Jones; Oscar Wood served as butler. Little Katherine Wood, John Righter Wood, Jr., Eleanor Jones and Alan Wood Jones, Jr., all Legaux descendants, danced the charming French minuet; and Miss Eliza Hall, in the quaint, high-waisted gown of the period, sang delightfully.

With the casualness and bits of humor that characterized the original scene, the naming of Conshohocken was an episode of appreciated information to all of the townspeople. Direct descendants of the original committee of five men, who were responsible for the difficult name they gave the borough, enacted the scene as closely to the actual scene, as records suggest; James Wood was personified by E. J. Morris Wood, 3rd; James Wood, Jr., was James Wells; A. Conrad Jones was Isaac Jones in a replica of the great-brimmed white hat with which tradition dresses Isaac's head; William Harry, of Philadelphia, was a mirthful David Harry, and Thomas A. Foulke portrayed his ancestor, Cadwallader Foulke. The placing of various names, suggested by the committee, such as Woodville, Riverside and Conshohocken, in a hat, and the chance drawing of the latter, proved highly interesting.

Townsfolk of 1850 drifted in at the end of this episode and gay dancing and singing concluded it. Mrs. Sara Taggart Dutill, in the bouffant gown of the "fifties," evoked treasured memories with her delightful songs of "Sweet Alice," and "Listen to the Mocking Bird."

An almost breathless silence greeted the drawing of the curtains on the fifth episode, a living reproduction of

"Breaking Home Ties," one of the most famous pictures of that famous artist, Thomas Hovenden, of Plymouth Meeting. Paying a beautiful tribute to the sacrificial ending of the life of the world-renowned painter, who lost his life in saving that of a child at a railroad crossing near his home, the bell seemed to say: "Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friend." A truthful portrayal of the humble scene, even to the great brown-and-white collie, was made by the Conshohocken Art League. Stewart MacKenzie was the youth whose ambitions for a larger life are limned in "Breaking Home Ties." Mrs. Mary Lukens Myers was the mother; Mrs. S. Gordon Smyth, Sr., the grandmother; Mrs. Stuart B. Molony, the young woman; Miss Margaret Forsythe, the small sister; Thomas I. Raser, Sr., and Oscar Freas were the men in the picture. Last, but not least, was "Max," the collie, owned by Miss Margaret Golden.

The development of community spirit, the great progress of the town, its salient characteristics, were fused in a series of beautiful tableaux that formed the final episode. Thirty Years of Friendship was presented by the Girls' Friendly Society; the Industries of Conshohocken were summed up by the Rotary Club; Welfare Work in Conshohocken was a living picture showing the Red Cross, The Needlework Guild, Civilian Relief Workers and the Visiting Nurse Association. Polish girls of blonde beauty and in quaint native red-and-green trimmed white gowns, sang Polish folk-songs that were spirited in "Defiance of the Bolsheviks." A first aid demonstration was given by the Boy Scouts; a tableaux, by the Girl Reserves; Quotations from the Presidents, by the Montgomery Peace Society; and a beautiful living picture, "The Patriotism of Peace," by St. Matthew's School children.

Fifty voices of the combined choirs of Conshohocken, led by Lindsay Shaw, of Calvary Church, in Kipling's stirring "Recessional," made a brilliant ending to the pageant. The unseen thread woven all through the production is beautifully expressed in the epilogue, between the Bell and the Child, which follows:

THE EPILOGUE

The Child: Oh Bell,
I think I like the end
Of the story the best of all!

The Bell: For after all, O Child,
This is the end
Which is the beginning—
The beginning of new age
In the history of mankind.
The Age of Community Spirit.

The Child: That's a big word—
Community.
What does it mean?

The Bell: Just getting together,
Learning how to understand
each other better,
Learning how to work in
harmony,
Learning how to love each
other more.
Do you remember how our great
Lincoln said:
"With malice toward none,
With charity for all
With courage to do the right
As God gives us to see the right
Let us strive to finish
The work we are in."

Red, white and blue bunting and countless fluttering flags lined the path of the parade under the auspices of the John F. De Haven Post, American Legion, which took place, on Wednesday, November 11th, the "big day" of Conshohocken's Seventy-fifth Birthday Party. The same inspiring spirit of harmony that enlivened the historical pageant marked this event also; all the people of the community were united in a common effort to make this celebration uncommonly fine. Pupils of the public and parochial schools of both East and West Conshohocken, members of military, civic and fraternal organizations, Polish and Ital-

ian societies, several thousand strong, formed the first four divisions of the great line. Local industries and organizations were represented in beautifully decorated floats, which comprised the fifth and last division of the parade.

At ten o'clock A.M., the siren atop the Washington Fire House blew. The parade swung into line. Harry Atkinson and Calvin Riggs, officers of the American Legion, and Henry Harrold, of the George Smith Post, G.A.R., wearing the Union blue suit and bearing the colors which he defended in the "days of '61," headed the local military organizations. Detachments of visiting soldiers, sailors and marines made up the first division; directly following rode the few surviving veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, in their faded uniforms.

The "borough fathers" of East and West Conshohocken, together with the fire companies of these boroughs, in splendid uniformed array and perfect swinging step, marched in the second division. Thomas Smith, of the Washington Fire Company, headed this line, as marshal. The fire-fighting apparatus gleamed in the November sun, as the volunteer fire fighters swung down Fayette street.

Gaily attired Indians, with paint besmeared faces and vivid feathers stuck in flowing black locks, members of the local Washita Tribe, I.O.R.M., executed weird war-dances as they followed their pale-face brethren in the line of parade. With the "red skins" were their ladies, members of the Daughters of Pocohontas, wearing beautifully colored costumes copied from authentic Indian models. St. Matthew's Holy Name Society, five hundred strong and marching with perfect step, won the applause of the crowds as they came into view, with Rev. Father James Brogan, spiritual director, at their head. Polish and Italian Societies, and Knights of the Golden Eagle, all in attractive uniforms, were represented in the third division also. George Giles, great Mishinewa of the Red Men, acted as marshal.

Wearing red, white and blue hats and sashes, and waving American flags, came the army of youth, with shining morning faces. Hundreds of boys and girls from the local schools, representing the Conshohocken Public Schools, St.

Matthew's Parochial School, West Conshohocken Public School, St. Gertrude's Parochial School and St. Mary's Polish Parochial School, marched blithely to the spirited strains from three excellent bands. Charles Hottenstein, Superintendent of Schools, headed the fourth division.

Miss Bertha Saylor, who won first place in the contest conducted by the Recorder Publishing Company, regally gowned in pale pink satin, and cloak of royal ermine, rode in state on the first float in the fifth division, representing "Miss 1925." On the next flower-decorated float sat Miss Jean Burns, winner of second honors, beautifully dressed in quaint, old-fashioned costume and powdered hair, portraying "Miss 1850." Other attractively-draped floats, depicting episodes in the growth of the community, such as the naming of Conshohocken; ball at the home of Peter Legaux; Washington at Whitemarsh, and other scenes representing local industries and their varied products, and borough organizations, followed the lead of the fair beauty-contest winners.

Moving down Fayette street, over the same hallowed ground trod by Washington and his brave troops in tattered buff and blue, on their march to the Gulph Hills on that far-off December day, 1777, the great procession crossed the imposing bridge, spanning the river Schuylkill at the site of Matson's ford, to the Memorial monument at the west approach. Here they counter-marched, and re-crossing the river, proceeded up Fayette street, and broke ranks at various avenues appointed.

Stirring strains played by the twelve bands in line; excellent conduct; martial precision of step, and a general spirit of harmony and brotherhood were evidenced by those who took part in this parade, and the hundreds of persons that viewed it, made the demonstration a memorable civic epic.

At eleven o'clock of that exciting morning, the townspeople realized it was also Armistice Day. A day in memory of thousands who gave their lives for democracy on "the scarlet fields of Flanders." Sirens, steam whistles, church bells and motor horns, in weird and shrill cacophony, pro-

claimed the hour. Men uncovered, and stood in the crisp morning air with bare heads; the parade halted; lips moved in prayer, and the town stood solemnly still for a few moments in commemoration of that fateful day and hour when peace came to gladden the heart of the world.

A mass meeting in the Conshohocken High School auditorium concluded the anniversary celebration in a fitting manner. Notable speakers at the exercises included: Hon. Henry W. Watson, M.C., Major-General Amos A. Fries, Chief of the Chemical Warfare Department of the United States, and Lucius McKay Crumrine, State Commander of the American Legion. The presentation of the prizes in the essay contest on "Early Conshohocken" was made at this meeting by S. Gordon Smyth, a director of the Chamber of Commerce, and well-known as an historian and writer. Fifteen dollars in cash was awarded to Miss Helen Griffin, a pupil of St. Matthew's High School; ten dollars to Miss Dorothy Davies, of the Conshohocken High School; third prize to Miss Dorothy Derr, of St. Matthew's School, and fourth to Miss Edna Righter, of the Conshohocken High School. The essays receiving the awards were carefully selected by a committee of local persons; the names of the contestants were not disclosed until after the judging was concluded.

A Few Thoughts and Questions
respecting
The Purpose
for which
The Montgomery County Historical Society
Was Formed

By H. W. KRIEBEL

The purpose for which the Historical Society of Montgomery County was formed, is defined thus by its Charter and By-Laws.

Charter. II. The purpose for which the corporation is formed is the study and preservation of the history of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

By-Laws, Article II. Object. The Society shall have for its object the preservation of the civil, political and religious history of the county, as well as the promotion of the study of history, local, national and universal.

The two great sub-divisions of history are: (A) Prehistoric Period, and (B) Historic Period.

(A) The Prehistoric Period covers the history of the soil, the rock formation, plant, animal, human life, of which there are no written records. These things have vitally influenced the lives and industries of the residents of the county, and therefore must receive consideration by historians.

(B) The Historic Period covers the period of which written records are extant.

The Materials of History are for

(A) The contour of the surface, the soil, rocks, fossils, still existing plant and animal life, the Indian relics.

(B) Books, manuscripts of all kinds, the tools, products, by-products and waste of the industries, the buildings and ruins, the cemeteries, etc., etc., in the wide sense, what man is doing, and the foot-prints of what man has done.

These materials are found

(A) Within the county, and

(B) Outside the county, wherever Montgomery Countians, or the products of their hands and brains, have gone; mission, battle, industrial fields, trails, left by the children and children's children, as they went forth from the county to mingle and be lost in the great human family elsewhere, are legitimate places to look for material.

These materials again may be classed as

(1) Original.

(2) Secondary — embodying intelligent study of data, including original material.

(3) Literary hash — data, undigested, unintelligent, unreliable. (Even this has its value, if properly labeled.)

The acquisition of materials is implied in the study and preservation of history—in fact, these three form an inseparable trinity, neither can one exist without the others. In considering the acquisition of materials, one is struck at once by the well-known fact that society is continually engaged in the destruction of the data of history—Indian-like, removing evidences of the way it has travelled—as fruitless search for data, the paper-mills, rubbish dumps, and smoldering fires on back lots unmis-

takably testify. To save all data is utterly impossible, and equally undesirable; to part infallibly the useful and the useless is equally impossible, however desirable. To save at least some flowers in the crannied wall from the wreck of time ought to be possible, and to be aimed at. Acquisition is of course limited by the funds available. Few have the wherewithal to acquire and preserve historic houses by erecting protecting houses over them.

Among the materials of history of the county, some accessible, some inaccessible, some in print, some in manuscript, may be mentioned:

(A) Public and private collections abroad, notably in England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy;

(B) Collections in Washington, D.C., as the Congressional Library, the Census Reports, War and Navy and Treasury Records, etc.

(C) Public Records at Harrisburg, many of which have been published;

(D) Collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania;

(E) The various other public and private collections in Philadelphia;

(F) Public Records of Philadelphia County, prior to 1784;

(G) Public County Records—as settlement of estates, deeds, mortgages, tax lists, records of county commissioners, county controller, sheriff, prothonotary, school superintendent, etc., etc.;

(H) Newspaper files, those printed or circulating in the county;

(I) Church records, including cemetery inscriptions;

(J) Private collections, museums, relics, books, papers, etc., stored at times in dusty boxes, chests, and trunks, unappreciated often, and unsuspected.

A few considerations respecting the active acquisition of materials suggest themselves.

(A) Hearty co-operation and co-ordination in aim and method are desirable. Groups of individuals organized locally can often secure the loan or donation of articles which owners are loathe to let go out of their immediate neighborhoods. Valley Forge for Revolutionary history, the Schwenkfelder Historical Library for history of the Perkiomen Region, Conshohocken for its special field, as well as others, will doubtless achieve what the county society could accomplish only with difficulty, if at all. In the same way, the county society may be able to attain ends beyond the power of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania or the Pennsylvania State Library. The county historical library, ought, however, to be a clearing-house with regard to county history for these local and state libraries, in order that the student may learn at a glance what the other collections can offer.

(B) There are men who do not hesitate to go into historic communities, pry data from their setting, and, for love of money, sell them into strange communities where their historic value is almost, if not totally, destroyed. Deeds, even unrecorded deeds, have become merchandise to be scattered—an inexcusable vandalism. Each member of the society ought to be a magnet to draw for the society data within his or her sphere of influence, and counteract this baneful commercialism by promoting the historic sense.

(C) Where possible, originals ought to be secured.

Where originals cannot be had, transcripts or photostats should be made.

Where these are impracticable, the sources should at least be catalogued.

So much has been lost, destroyed, or sequestered, that it ought to be the maxim of the

society, "Everything is grist for our mill." To collect under any selective rule may defeat its own purpose. The museum committee can determine what may be serviceable for exhibition purposes, and the rest can be preserved for research purposes. The danger of the historical rooms becoming mere dumping-ground is not very serious. Fine museums are very instructive and are a good hunting-ground for historians, but a conscientious historian deeply delights, also, in rolling up his sleeves, delving into chests and trunks, gently lifting dust-begrimed packages of papers, tattered and torn, earmarked with the unmistakable evidences of age and originality, tenderly smoothing out the folds and creases, and mentally pigeon-holing the facts established by these. While building up fine display collections, historical societies cannot afford to ignore original data and material, however dusty, begrimed or uninviting.

In addition, there are probably county records in some of the county offices that could be entrusted to the historical society as loans, without any prejudice to the operation of the offices themselves. Officials are not always historians, and may not feel called upon to give time gratuitously for such work. Tax lists and abandoned indexes suggest themselves as examples.

The purpose of the Society, "the promotion of the study of history, local, national and universal," is broad, elastic, inclusive, and makes one think of being hitched to a star. This society does not belong to the class called "mutual admiration societies," members meeting to amuse and admire one another; it can have no time for these things if it lives up to its ideal.

Among the ways of furthering our purpose are:

(A) Being enthusiastic historians ourselves. Painted fires will not make a pot boil; nor will artificial peaches satisfy hunger. To think and talk history will cause others to think and talk the same way.

(B) Collecting data for the Society at all times at all places of all people.

(C) Helping local papers to secure for publication interesting historical articles.

(D) Raising money to be spent in improving library equipment.

(E) Bringing friends to the library, and teaching them how to use the library.

(F) Helping to make card catalogues of what the library contains.

(G) A specific way would be to do what has been done in other places—enter into arrangements with the school authorities of Norristown so that students can do certain work in the library for which credit will be given in their courses. This would be laboratory work like that in physics or chemistry or botany, and would benefit the student and increase the value of the library.

The subject of preservation of the materials of history is a very important one and in the case of our society, a very serious one. The society rooms are not fireproof, cannot economically be made fireproof, and are not, as a whole, so well adapted to their purpose as they might be. The Bucks County society exemplifies by its building what this society ought to be thinking about. If the society is to grow, not merely exist, and to approximate more nearly its avowed purpose, it should provide fire-proof quarters, including fire-proof cases and shelves, a good swivel chair with a live wire in it, a larger audience room, improved working facilities for students, better

janitor service for the rooms, more detailed classification, cataloguing and organization of its materials.

The foregoing considerations seem to warrant a few questions as a suggestion towards a special society program for the season:

- (1) Would it be in place to make the necessary preparations during the coming winter to put up the society fireproof building next summer?
- (2) Would it be worthwhile to enter upon a campaign to add one thousand names to the list of active members before April 1, 1923?
- (3) Would it be a wise step to begin a county-wide canvass at once, for the loan or donation of historical materials to the library, after completion of the fireproof building?
- (4) Would it be timely to take up with the proper school authorities the question of entering into arrangements between the school authorities and the society, so that certain designated pupils could do work in the library for which credit could be given on the required courses for graduation?
- (5) Should not the society, through its delegation, raise the question at the annual meeting of the Federation of Historical Societies in January, whether regulations have been formulated determining the special fields of activities of the various societies, and if no action has been taken, respectfully request that the subject receive the consideration of the Federation?

Membership of the Historical Society

December, 1925

HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person by a three-fourths vote of the members present at the regular meetings. Ten have been so elected. Those marked with a star (*) are deceased:

- Carson, Hon. Hampton L., Philadelphia, Pa.
- Dorr, Mrs. Alfred, Boston, Mass.
- *Ellis, Col. Nathaniel Missimer, Pottstown, Pa.
- Fry, J. S., D.D., Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.
- *Hancock, Captain Gwynne R., Portsmouth, N. H.
- *Mathews, Edward, Lansdale, Pa.
- Pershing, Edgar J., Philadelphia, Pa.
- Pfeil, Mrs. Charles O., Memphis, Tenn.
- Powers, Fred Perry, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
- *Rex, Mrs. Sarah Slengluff, Norristown, Pa.

LIFE MEMBERS

Life members are elected on payment of twenty-five dollars into the treasury, providing they be elected in the same manner as an active member. Those marked with a star (*) are deceased:

- Brecht, George K., Norristown, Pa.
- Brecht, Mrs. George K., Norristown, Pa.
- *Fornance, Joseph, Esq., Norristown, Pa.
- Fornance, Mrs. Joseph, Norristown, Pa.
- Fox, Frances M., Norristown, Pa.
- Gearhart, W. M., Norristown, Pa.

- Hocker, Edward W., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Jellett, Edwin C., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Jones, A. Conrad, Conshohocken, Pa.
Jones, Mrs. A. Conrad, Conshohocken, Pa.
Jones, Horace C., Conshohocken, Pa.
Kriebel, Howard W., Pennsburg, Pa.
Lukens, Mrs. Annie McFarland, Conshohocken, Pa.
McHarg, Mrs. James R., Norristown, Pa.
McShea, Mrs. Stewart R., Norristown, Pa.
McShea, Walter Ross, Philadelphia, Pa.
McShea, Mrs. Walter Ross, Philadelphia, Pa.
Murray, Mrs. Clara S., Phoenixville, Pa.
Nason, Mrs. R. P., Hartford, Conn.
Reed, Dr. W. H., Jeffersonville, Pa.
Reed, Mrs. W. H., Jeffersonville, Pa.
*Roberts, Elwood, Winslow, N. J.
Roberts, Mrs. Elwood, Winslow, N. J.
Roberts, Howard C., Norristown, Pa.
Robinson, Mrs. Alice R., Atlantic City, N. J.
Shaw, Charles H., Jeffersonville, Pa.
Summers, Lillian E., Phoenixville, Pa.
*Summers, William, Conshohocken, Pa.
Weinberger, Minerva, Conshohocken, Pa.
Wetherill, William Henry, Philadelphia, Pa.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Any person not residing in the County of Montgomery, by reason of his or her aid, service or contribution to the Society, may be elected an associate member, on receiving the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting of the Society. Three have been so elected:

- Fox, Cyrus T., Reading, Pa.
Richardson, William H., Jersey City, N. J.
Smith, Joseph H., West Chester, Pa.

Active Members

Members of this Society are elected on receiving the votes of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting, and on payment of \$2.00 initiation fee, including dues for the first year. Annual dues are \$2.00. Those now deceased are marked with a star (*). Those having resigned are marked thus—(†):

A

Alderfer, Miss Emma C., Norristown, Pa.
Aldinger, Mrs. Deborah, Roxborough, Phila., Pa.
Alexander, Mrs. Howard, Norristown, Pa.
Allen, Dr. H. Croskey, Norristown, Pa.
Allen, Mrs. H. Croskey, Norristown, Pa.
†Anders, Mrs. Amos B., Norristown, R. D., No. 2.
Anders, Daniel M., Norristown, Pa.
Anders, Dr. Warren Z., Trappe, Pa.
Anders, Mrs. Warren Z., Trappe, Pa.
Arndt, John S., Philadelphia, Pa.
Arnold, Dr. H. A. Ardmore, Pa.
Arnold, Mrs. H. A., Ardmore, Pa.
†Arnold, James D., Norristown, Pa.
Arthur, I. Warner, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
†Ashmead, Miss Elizabeth, Philadelphia, Pa.

B

Baggs, Miss Mary N., Abington, Pa.
Ballard, Herbert T., Norristown, Pa.
Ballard, Mrs. Herbert T. Norristown, R. F. D.
Barker, Charles R., Lansdowne, Pa.
†Barnes, Chester H., Norristown, Pa.
Barnes, Mrs. Daisy Z., Norristown, Pa.
*Barnsley, Miss Adela, Bethayres, Pa.
Barrett, B. Brooke, Norristown, Pa.

Bean, Howell E., Ashbourne, Pa.
Bean, Theodore Lane, Norristown, Pa.
†Beck, Miss Clara A., Norristown, Pa.
Beideman, Elmer E., Norristown, Pa.
Beiler, John W., Conshohocken, Pa.
Bertolet, Benjamin, Phila., Pa.
Bertolet, Benjamin, 2nd, Philadelphia, Pa.
Bertolet, Daniel H., Pottstown, Pa.
Bertolet, Walter B., Philadelphia, Pa.
Beyer, Miss Emma C., Norristown, Pa.
Beyer, Wesley B., Norristown, Pa.
Blackfan, Miss Margaret, Norristown, Pa.
*Blanck, Dr. Joseph E., Green Lane, Pa.
†Blanck, Mrs. Lillie H., Norristown, Pa.
*Boorse, Henry A., Norristown, Pa.
Boorse, Miss Katherine M., Norristown, Pa.
Boorse, Miss Susan A., Norristown, Pa.
Borneman, Henry S., Philadelphia, Pa.
Botsford, Marshall E., Norristown, R. F. D. 3.
Bowman, General Wendell P., Philadelphia, Pa.
Boyd, Mrs. Howard, Norristown, Pa.
†Boyer, Miss Ella, Norristown, Pa.
Boyer, J. Frank, Norristown, Pa.
Boyer, Louis B., Norristown, Pa.
Brady, Harman Y., Willow Grove, Pa.

Branson, Dr. Thomas E., Rosemont, Pa.
 Bray, Charles W., Bridgeport, Pa.
 Brecht, Samuel K., Upper Darby, Pa.
 Brecht Mrs. Samuel K., Upper Darby, Pa.
 †Brendle, Rev. Thomas R., Green Lane, Pa.
 Bromer, Jacob A., Schwenksville, Pa.
 Bromer, Mrs. Jacob A., Schwenksville, Pa.
 Brooke, Major General John R., Rosemont, Pa.
 Brooks, Mrs. John B., Narberth, Pa.
 Brown, Mrs. N. Howland, Norristown, Pa.
 Brownback, Henry M., Norristown, Pa.
 Brueckmann, Mrs. William, Norristown, Pa.
 Brumbaugh, Mrs. G. Edwin, Gwynedd, Pa.
 Buchanan, Mrs. A. S., Norristown, Pa.
 Buchanan, Mrs. Benjamin E., Norristown, Pa.
 Buckenham, Dr. J. E. Burnett, Chestnut Hill, Phila., Pa.
 *Buckman, Mrs. Mary Ann, Norristown, Pa.
 Burgin, Dr Herman, Germantown, Phila., Pa.
 Burk, Rev. W. Herbert, Valley Forge, Pa.
 Bussa, H. B. Norristown, Pa.
 Buyers, Dr. Edgar S., Norristown, Pa.

C

Cadwallader, Thomas, Fort Washington, Pa.
 Carvalho, Mrs. I. N., Norristown, Pa.
 Chain, B. Percy, Norristown, Pa.
 †Chamberlain, Rev. Edwin A., Lafayette Hill, Pa.
 Chandler, George A., Bethlehem, Pa.
 Childs, Miss Lillian, Norristown, Pa.
 Childs, Louis M., Norristown, Pa.
 Chism, J. Fred., Norristown, Pa.
 Chism, Mrs. J. Fred, Norristown, Pa.
 Clamer, F. J., Collegeville, Pa.
 Clark, Miss E. Irene, Norristown, Pa.
 Clark, Miss Harriett, Norristown, Pa.
 *Clark, James Harrison, Cynwyd, Pa.
 Corson, S. Cameron, Norristown, Pa.
 Clemmer, Abram, Willow Grove, Pa.
 Cloud, Charles F., Norristown, Pa.
 Conard, Mrs. Irene D. S., Norristown, Pa.
 Conrow, Mrs. Emma B., Norristown, Pa.
 Conver, Samuel D., Lansdale, Pa.
 Cook, George J., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Cooper, William A., Conshohocken, Pa.
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 Copp, Mrs. Dorothy Evans, Norristown, Pa.
 †Coppedge, Robert W., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Cornish, Dr. S. D., Collegeville, Pa.
 Corson, George, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
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 Corson, George C., Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
 †Corson, Miss Katherine C., Norristown, Pa.
 Corson, Mrs. Percy H., Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
 Corson, S. Cameron, Norristown, Pa.
 Corson, Walter H., Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
 Craft, Mrs. Frederick, Norristown, Pa.
 Cranor, Mrs. Henry D., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Crawford, Miss Anna M., Norristown, Pa.
 Crawford, Miss Fannie E., Norristown, Pa.
 Crawford, J. Craig, Norristown, Pa.
 Crawford, Rev. John Allen, Norristown, Pa.
 Crawford, Mrs. John Allen, Norristown, Pa.
 Cresson, Francis Macomb, Ardmore, Pa.
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Cresson, Miss Mary L., Norristown, Pa.
 Cresson, Miss Nancy Corson, Norristown, Pa.
 Cresson, Mrs. Tacy F., Norristown, Pa.
 †Croasdale, Mrs. Anna L., Norristown, Pa.

D

Dager, H. J., Ambler, Pa.
 Dambly, B. Witman, Skippack, Pa.
 †D'Andrade, Joseph, Norristown, Pa.
 †Danehower, Mrs. Alice Y., Jeffersonville, Pa.
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 Danehower, Mrs. W. S., Norristown, Pa.
 Davis, Reese P., Conshohocken, Pa.
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 Degn, W. L., Germantown, Phila., Pa.
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 Develin, Mrs. John F., Bala, Pa.
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 Doughton, Mrs. Morris B., Royersford, Pa.
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E

Eastwick, Abram T. Norristown, Pa.
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 †Fox, Mrs. H. H., Norristown, Pa.
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†Markley, Mrs. Arthur D., Eureka, Pa.
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†Marple, Miss Mary, Norristown, Pa.
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Mattison, Richard, Jr., Ambler, Pa.
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†McGinnis, Mrs. James, Norristown, Pa.
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†McInnes, Miss Martha H., Norristown, Pa.
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†McLaughlin, John J., Bridgeport, Pa.
†McLaughlin, Ralph, Norristown, Pa.
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Middleton, Daniel S., Jeffersonville, Pa.
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Middleton, Miss Rena S., Jeffersonville, Pa.
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Miller, Hon. John Faber, Norristown, Pa., R. F. D. 4.
Miller, Mrs. John Faber, Norristown, Pa., R. F. D. 4.
Miller, Robert C., Norristown, Pa.
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*Montague, William E., Norristown, Pa.
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†Morris, Charles E., Philadelphia, Pa.
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Orr, Sylvester H., Norristown, Pa.
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†Paist, Mrs. John D., Norristown, Pa.
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 Peirce, Harold, Philadelphia, Pa.
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 †Plummer, Arthur, Conshohocken, Pa.
 †Pitcairn, Raymond, Bryn Athyn, Pa.
 Poley, George W., Norristown, Pa.
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Ralston, Isabel G., Norristown, Pa.

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- T
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- Zimmerman, Miss Lillian, Norristown, Pa.

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