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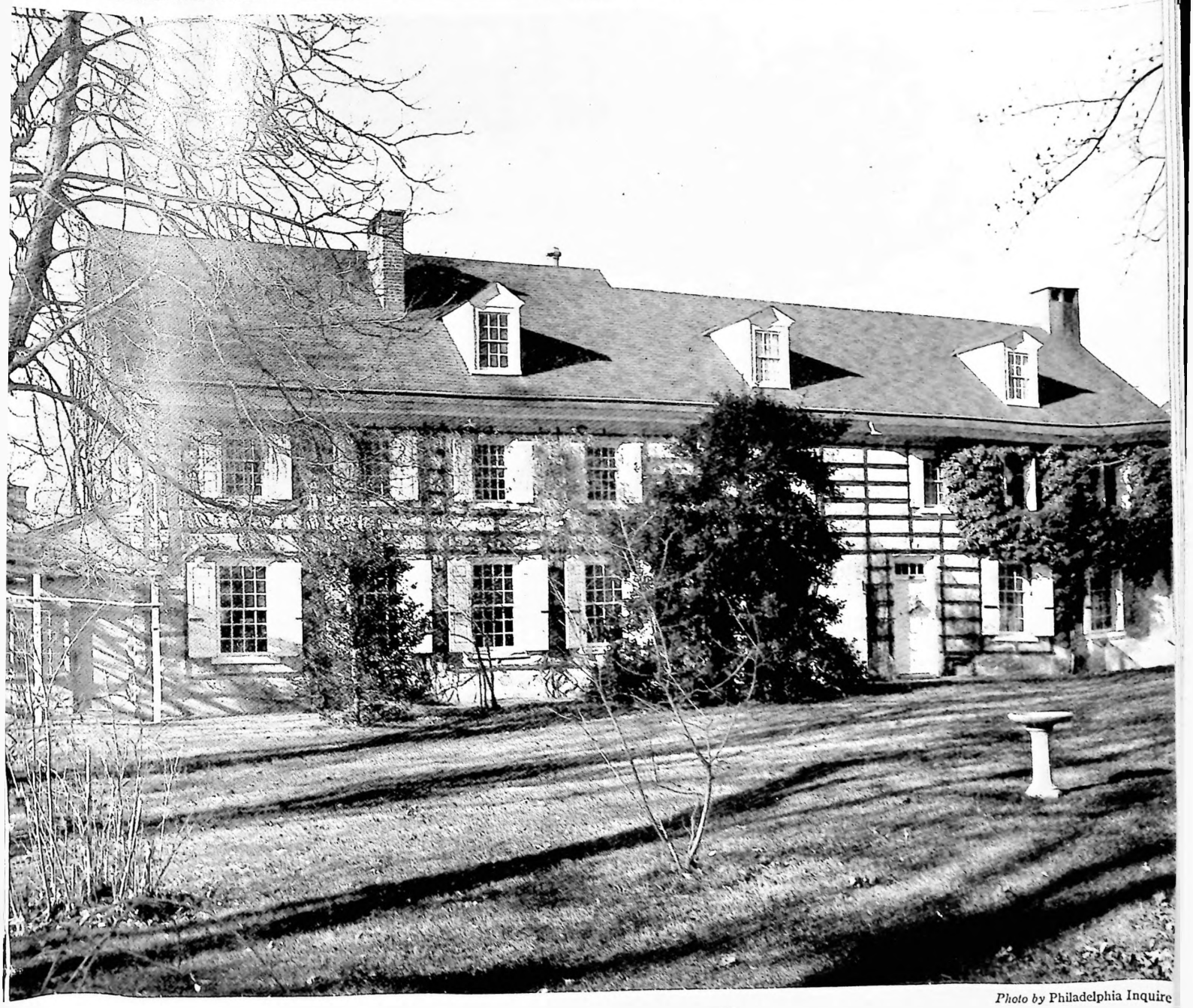


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"WYCK HAS A NEW OWNER"
See page 41

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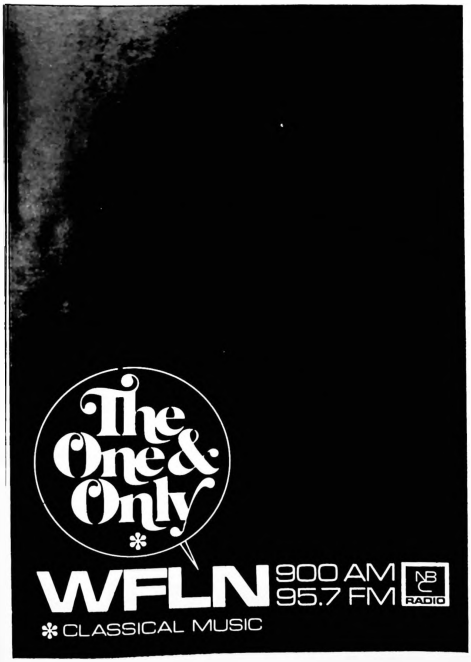
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Volume 26 | SPRING, 1974 | Number 2

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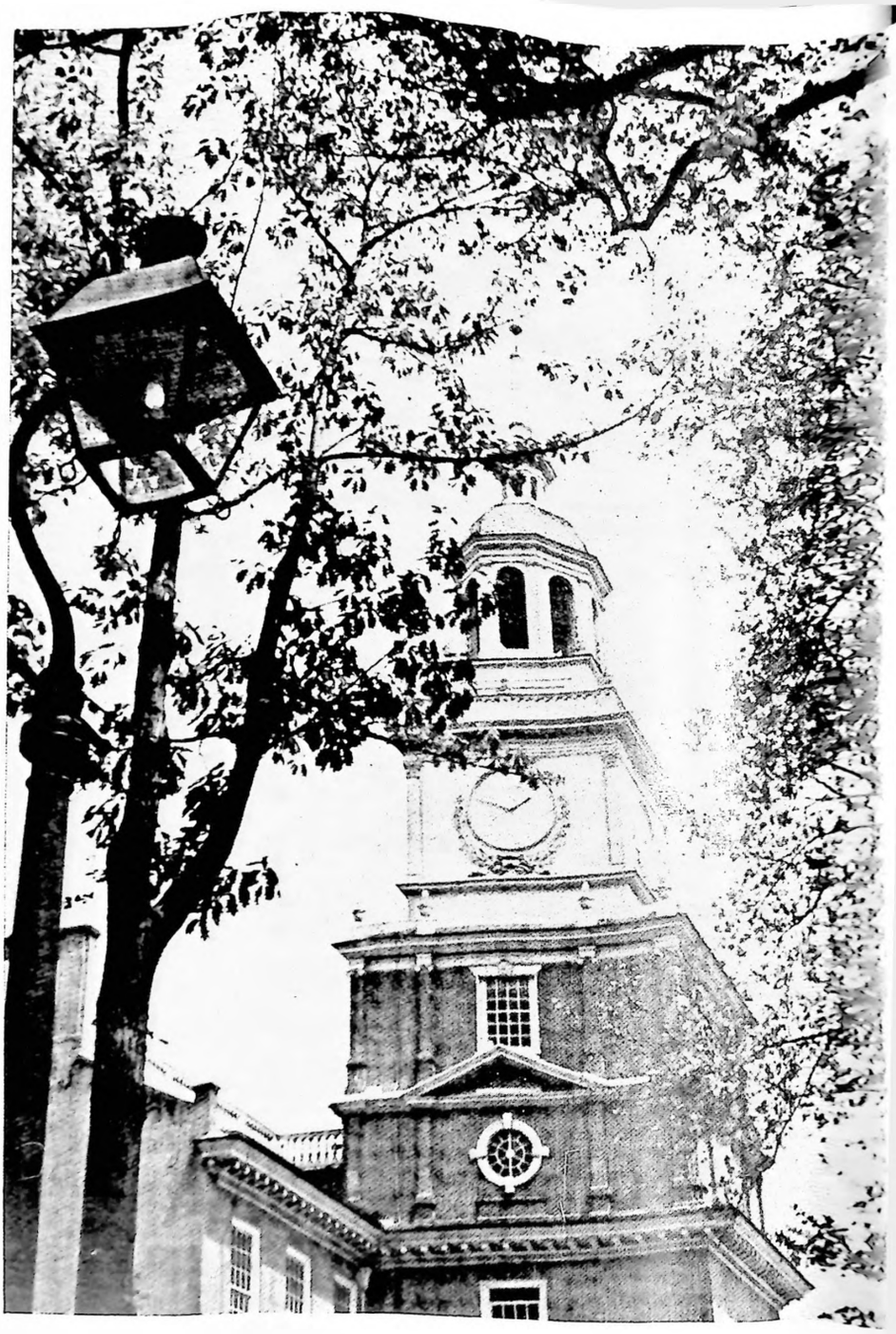
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WYCK

By Charles Huston Haines

Chairman, Wyck Committee



Photo by Philadelphia Inquirer

Mrs. Robert B. Haines III, with quill pen, last family owner of Wyck, turns over deed for the property to Mr. John R. Bunting, Jr., Chairman of the First Pennsylvania Bank, Trustee of the Wyck Charitable Trust. Judge Harold D. Saylor (left), President of the Germantown Historical Society, watches ceremony at 18th Century secretary in Wyck. The Germantown Historical Society will administer the property.

"WYCK HAS A NEW OWNER" headlined a story in The Philadelphia Inquirer of December 4, 1973. The oldest house in Germantown, at the corner of Germantown Avenue and Walnut Lane, has now gone into a trust for historic purposes. The Germantown Historical Society is designated as administrative agent.

In a simple ceremony at Wyck on December 1, 1973, Mrs. Robert B. Haines, 3rd, last family owner of the house, turned over the deed for the property to Mr. John R. Bunting, Jr., Chairman of the First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company. The latter, incidentally the oldest bank in America, rather appropriately becomes sole trustee of the newly established Wyck Charitable Trust. By agreement between the Bank and the Germantown Historical Society, the Society will operate the property through its Wyck Committee. The Committee, established by article of the Society, consists of the elected officers of the Society, five family related members, and five members at large. The arrangement is similar to that under which the Deshler-Morris House was deeded to the National Park Service, with the Historical Society as administrator.

Wyck had been continuously in the ownership and occupancy of one family line for 283 years. In her gift of the house, Mrs. Haines expressed the hope that it continue as a "witness to the 'Way of Life' pursued through nine generations of the family, retaining the high Christian standards upheld by them."

An intriguing challenge is thus posed for those charged with the responsibility of carrying forward Wyck and its Friendly tradition.

On our national Archives Building in Washington, D. C., is inscribed the phrase, "THE PAST IS PROLOGUE." This is a good perspective for antiquity. Where does the past point us to for our generation, for the future? There is something about this old house which embodies the faith and principles of the sturdy founders of our community—Mennonite and Quaker—particularly the architect of our Commonwealth, William Penn. The relevance of these principles to our life and national structure today is attested by the fact that Penn's own charter for Pennsylvania became a primary source of the constitution of the United States.

Wyck, as many of the early houses did, stands with its gable end to Germantown Avenue which at time of building was a dirt wagon trail. A visitor not long ago remarked, "Wasn't it too bad they built it right on the street car line!"

The house was built in two separate units. The end furthest from the street was built about 1690 by Hans Milan who came from Holland or the Lower Rhine Provinces, a Mennonite, it is believed. The latter had close associations with the Friends, and were warmly encouraged by Penn to join his "Holy Experiment" in the new world.

In the first four generations, ownership of the house passed through the daughter. Thus there was a change of name, but one line of family descent. Hans Milan's daughter Margaret married Dirck Jansen, forerunner of many Johnsons hereabouts. The second unit of the house was built for this young couple, that which now juts out to Germantown Avenue. Later the passage of some eighteen feet between the two was bridged over, forming one long house with the gracious lines so pleasing today.

Dirck Jansen's daughter Catherine married Caspar Wistar. Caspar came from Hilsbach, near Heidelberg, Germany, on the edge of the Black Forest. The name is derived from the German "Wüster". The family had been for generations hereditary foresters to the Elector. Caspar Wistar's name was mis-registered on immigration with an "ar". This spelling has remained with one branch of the family ever since. Caspar's brother John, arriving a few years later, was correctly registered "Wister". So the "ar's" and the "er's" represent the two lines of descent from a common father, and woe betide the person who confuses them!

Caspar Wistar's daughter, Margaret, in turn married Reuben Haines, sometimes called "the Elder". From this time Wyck has remained in the possession of the Haines family until the present.

Wyck was given its name by Reuben Haines after the English estate of one Richard Haines Esq., supposed to have been an ancestor. It was later discovered that Reuben had no, or only remote, connection with said Richard Haines. But the name was retained.

Almost a century old at the time of the American Revolution, Wyck was used as a field hospital during the Battle of Germantown. By then the two houses had been bridged over into one, and the center "passage way" served as an operating room for the wounded soldiers. Blood stains on the floor boards were to be seen well into this century.

Wyck, sometimes used as a summer country seat for the family when residing in Philadelphia, is an authentic farm house with its original ice house, smoke house, and carriage house intact. A large stone barn at the back, now on Walnut Lane, was converted into a lovely colonial style dwelling by the well-known architect Mantle Fielding about 1890, and is not at this time part of the Wyck estate.

Of Wyck residents, always associated with industry, civic and social pursuits, perhaps two of the most distinguished were Caspar Wistar and Reuben Haines the Younger, grandson of the first Reuben.

Caspar Wistar, against his father's opposition adventuring the uncertainties of the new world over the settled ancestral line as forester to the Elector, had to make his way from scratch with no parental support. He became apprenticed to a brass button maker, and later established a successful business in the manufacture of brass buttons, some of which are preserved to this day.

In the area near Salem, New Jersey, Caspar Wistar found sand which he felt would be suitable for glass making. From Rotterdam he imported four men skilled in the art, and set up at Wistarburg a glass works to supply a large and growing market for window glass, bottles and other items, the first successful glass manufactury on a commercial scale in America. There have resided at Wyck two of the very few extant objects of Wistarburg glass, which are currently on loan to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Wistar also produced for Benjamin Franklin a considerable number of various glass tubes and globes used by this pioneer in his sensational electrical experiments. Franklin's promotional work in this scientific field established the primacy of Wistarburg glass in America, and shipments went to Boston, New Haven, New York, South Carolina and other points far beyond the area of origin. A documented account of this was carried in the January, 1974, issue of Antiques magazine.

To his early successes in manufacturing Caspar Wistar added investments in real estate, both in city and country. In 1745 he donated 100 acres to a church in Myerstown, near Reading known now as Tulpehocken Trinity Reformed Church. His deed stipulated that a ground rent of one red rose be paid annually to a direct descendant. This nostalgic "Feast of Roses" ceremony takes place before a packed congregation in the lovely old church the

second Sunday of each June, followed by refreshments iin the church hall below. Visitors are welcome, and iit is a rewarding experience.

Production of silk from home grown mulberry-fed silk worms at Wyck was another experiment. A dress woven from this source is still preserved in the house. A brew house on the place, since demolished, produced an apparently excellent brand of beer for some forty-ffive years. The formula is among papers still preserved. The drink was apparently considered by the Quaker community a good temperance alternative to stronger stuff. The only remaining evidence of this industry is the sign in English and German that hung on the building.

Reuben Haines the Younger added lustre to the history of the old house. In 1825 he tendered there a civic reception to General Lafayette in the course of the General's triumphal return visit to the young republic. The General and his considerable party had been entertained at a ceremonial breakfast at Cliveden, and visited other scenes connected with the Battle of Germantown, in which he had performed with some distinction.

Accounts record that the July day of said reception was up to best Philadelphia summer standards, with temperature well over 100° F., so that birds even fell dead from the trees! One can understand that poor Lafayette, in the heavy clothing of the times, was so fatigued by the exertions of the day that he remained seated in the passage way through the center of the house receiving the guests and townspeople as they filed from the lawn in front to the garden on the north side. The arm chair used on this occasion, said to have been one of a pair brought home from France by Benjamin Franklin, remains in possession of one of the Haines family.

Presentation of the guests to the General was made by Charles J. Wister ("er", note!), a prominent citizen of the town. It was in his father's house "Grumblethorpe" a mile down Germantown Road that the British general, James Agnew, had made his headquarters and later died of wounds sustained in the Battle of Germantown.

Early in his tenure of the property Reuben Haines the Younger engaged the services of the celebrated architect William Strickland and undertook extensive remodeling of the interior of the house. Partitions were removed and the spacious present rooms created. When a series of wide double doors are thrown open down through the center of the house one has an almost breathtaking vista for nearly a hundred feet, experiencing an atmosphere of unusual grace and charm. At either end of this vista are seen the marble Greek Revival fireplaces planned by Strickland and popular in that period. This considerable work was happily completed in 1824 just in time for the Lafayette reception the following year.

One of Strickland's inspired touches was the large sliding glass doors of French window style at both sides of the center passage way, enabling one to see right through from the lawn in front to the charming formal garden with its box hedges on the north side. The feature has been copied by architects around the country, and is beautifully depicted in a lithograph by Joseph Pennell which hangs now in the passage way, or conservatory.

Reuben was prominent in civic interests. He was a promoter and member of the First Philadelphia Hose Company, and one of the projectors of Germantown Road as a macadamized turnpike. There was logic in this. It is told that once in order to get to the other side of that muddy bog he saddled his horse and rode across it! He actively supported the construction of the first rail line from the city to Germantown, later extended to Chestnut Hill.

Reuben Haines became the first Secretary of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, holding the post for 20 years. He was an early and active member of the Franklin Institute and also of the American Philosophical Society.

One of Reuben Haines's major interests was horticulture, and a world-wide correspondence with naturalists is preserved among the papers at Wyck. He and his wife Jane Bowne laid out the original formal garden on the north side of the house. This is now being restored by members of the Germantown Club on plans found in the house dated 1821. It is interesting that a later descendant, Jane Bowne Haines, in the first part of this century founded the School of Horticulture at Ambler, now a part of Temple University.

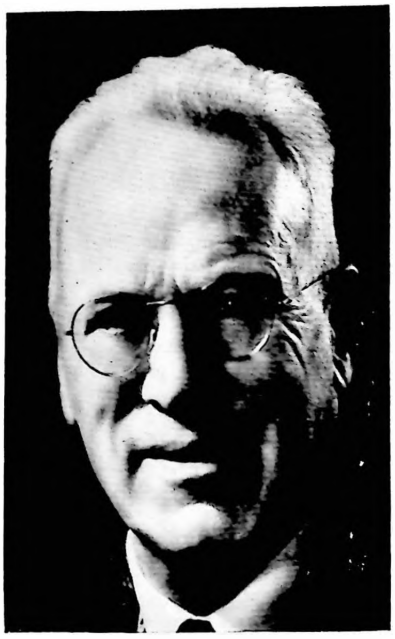
A frequent visitor and intimate of Reuben's, attested by voluminous correspondence, was the great naturalist James J. Audubon. Others were the family of Charles Willson Peale, best known portraitist of George Washington. A portrait of Reuben Haines by Rembrandt Peale, the son, hangs in the parlor at Wyck, possibly reflecting gratitude for Reuben's financial assistance in the artist's studies abroad.

Wyck covers a developing span of almost three centuries. It will be preserved as a family residence lived in through the generations rather than attempting to restore it to some particular period.

An "open house" garden party is currently in the planning stage for June of this year. In a little garden diary found in the library of the house under the date June 1st appears a single entry—"All the roses in bloom."



"Public opinion is everything. With it nothing can fail, without it nothing can succeed. He who moulds public opinion goes deeper than he who enacts statutes, for the moulder of public opinion makes statutes possible or impossible to execute."
—Abraham Lincoln.



Hon. Harold D. Saylor
President of Germantown Historical Society

JUDGE HAROLD D. SAYLOR GUEST OF HONOR AT TESTIMONIAL LUNCHEON

A testimonial luncheon for the Hon. Harold D. Saylor was held at the Union League on Friday, January 11, 1974. Judge Saylor has retired after completing 21 years as a judge of the Orphans' Court of Philadelphia.

At the close of the luncheon J. Wesley McWilliams, on behalf of the Committee, presented Judge Saylor with a silver plate, with the following remarks:

"We honor ourselves in honoring a great gentleman. A loyal warm friend, a tolerant one, and a complete gentleman."

The inscription on the plate reads:

TO
HAROLD D. SAYLOR
AS A TRIBUTE TO A LEARNED JURIST,
A DEDICATED CITIZEN
AND A WARM AND LOYAL ASSOCIATE,
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS
A PHILADELPHIA JUDGE
AFTER A SERVICE OF 21 YEARS
FROM HIS DEVOTED FRIENDS
JANUARY 11, 1974

Members and friends of the Germantown Historical Society most heartily agree and I am sure all join in wishing him well for the future.

EDITOR

200 HONOR JUDGE SAYLOR AT PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB DINNER

Thursday, March 14th a dinner was given at Philadelphia Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill, in ho of Judge Harold D. Saylor "To Honor a Lifetim Public Service."

The dinner was sponsored by the Germant Historical Society in cooperation with the Histor Society of Pennsylvania, the Fairmount Park C mission, the Philadelphia Historical Commission, Friends of the Wissahickon and the Pennsylv Horticultural Society. Master of Ceremonies F. Markoe Rivinus, who is President of the Frie of the Wissahickon, and the Schuylkill Valley Na Center.

Commissioner Robt. W. Crawford, Chairman of Fairmount Park Commission, presented Judge Sa with a framed citation signed by Mayor Rizzo told a little about the Judge's never failing inte in and support of our beautiful park. Short talks Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian, Phila. Histor Commission; Henry J. Magaziner, Councilor, H torical Society of Penn.; Francis Shunk Brown, Vice President, Germantown Historical Soci F. Markoe Rivinus, President, Friends of the Wi hickon; The Hon. Charles Klein, Administra Judge, Orphans' Court Division; Mr. Raymond Shepherd, Administrator, "Cliveden," followed, a which a "growing gift" of 150 new trees for Fairm Park was presented to Judge Saylor as a toke esteem.

The Judge expressed his appreciation for wonderful evening" and gave a short accoun why he has so thoroughly enjoyed his long dedicated service to our beautiful park, our c munity, and our city.

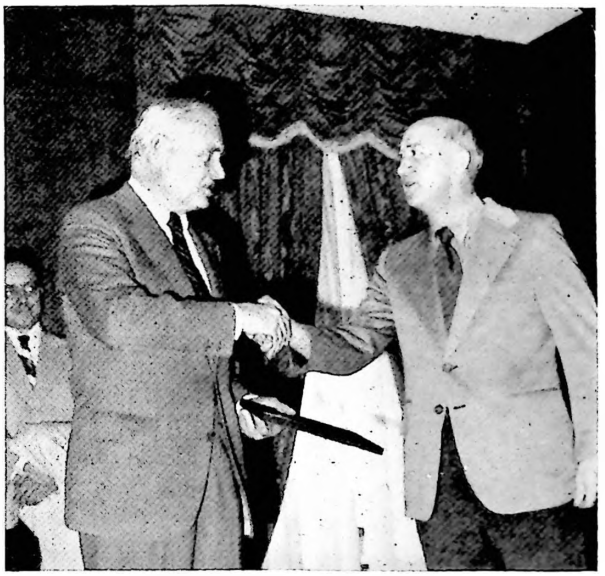
One of the nicest things Judge Saylor said "I'm leaving all my diaries to the Historical So of Pennsylvania (they cover the period from 191 date)."

Everyone wished both Judge and Mrs. Sa "Many Happy Days Ahead."

Edi

Bringhurst House Turned Over To National Park Service

By ANNE MCCAUGHEY



Lane Taylor (left), Chairman of the Board of Germantown Savings Bank, presents deed to Bringhurst House to Chester Brooks (right), Regional Director of National Park Service.

FROM the earliest days of Germantown, Market Square at Germantown Ave. and School House Lane has been the hub of activities for its citizens, even though Germantown Ave. was called Main St. in the old days and School House Lane was known as Bensell's Lane.

For more than 200 years the Bringhurst House at what is now 5448 Germantown Ave., just opposite Market Square, has been a good vantage spot from which to watch the comings and goings of Germantowners as they went to and from market, or attended church services at what is now Market Square Presbyterian Church, formerly a German Reformed Church.

The Bringhurst House, which has belonged to the Germantown Savings Bank since June 1948, on January 22, 1974, was turned over to the National Park Service and thus will continue to be preserved for future generations of Germantowners.

At ceremonies which took place on the second floor of the house Lane Taylor, chairman of the board of the Germantown Savings Bank, turned over the deed to the house to Chester Brooks, regional director of the National Park Service, and the key to the house to Superintendent Hobart G. Cawood of Independence National Historical Park.

Superintendent Cawood has indicated that the property will be used for administrative and interpretive purposes. As funds are made available, exhibits will be installed to tell visitors to the house some of the story of Germantown's early days, during the Colonial period, during the time of the Revolutionary War and during 1793 and 1794 when the house next door to the Bringhurst House, the Deshler-Morris House at 5442 Germantown Ave., served as the White House. This was the time that George Washington, first president of the newly formed United States, was in residence there.

According to Keyser's History of Germantown, the property at 5448 Germantown Ave. is said to have been owned by the Bringhurst family as early as 1725. It was owned by George Bringhurst in 1752.

It is interesting to note that the life spans of George Bringhurst and his whilom next door neighbor, George Washington, almost coincide. Bringhurst was born in Germantown September 12, 1732, while Washington was born at Wakefield in Westmoreland County, Virginia, February 22, 1732. Bringhurst died April 7, 1797, and is buried in Hood's Cemetery. Washington survived him by two and a half years, his death occurring at Mount Vernon December 14, 1799. In another 17 days he would have seen the arrival of the 19th century.

George Bringhurst married Sarah Trump October 14, 1760. She outlived both her husband and George

Washington, as she did not die until the 12th year of the new century, in April 1812.

The Bringhursts who came to the New World were descendants of the Bringhursts of Leicestershire, England. They emigrated to Pennsylvania about 1700.

The George Bringhurst who was the contemporary of George Washington was the son of George Bringhurst and his wife, Anna Ashmead. Both the Bringhursts and the Ashmeads were wellknown coach and carriage makers in Germantown.

In his will George Bringhurst described himself as a saddletree maker. (The dictionary defines a saddletree as the frame of a saddle.) He was for some years one of the trustees of the Germantown Union School, which later became Germantown Academy.

After George Bringhurst's death from accounts in histories of Germantown it would appear that his brothers, Robert and William, lived at 5448 Germantown Ave. Robert died in 1832 and the property came into the possession of Tudor Roberts Bringhurst.



Henry Scattergood, of Germantown. Arthur O. Rosenlund, Pres. Germantown Insurance Co.—also on Board of Managers of Germantown Historical Society. Lane Taylor, Chairman of Board, Germantown Savings Bank. Chester Brooks, Regional Director, National Park Service. Hobart Cawood, Supt., Independence Nat'l Historical Park. Dr. Gordon W. Venable, Member Board of Managers, Germantown Historical Society.

Tudor Bringhurst was the son of Robert Bringhurst and his wife, Margaret Brewster. He was born in Germantown and died at Swedesford in Montgomery County in 1843. His wife's maiden name was Caroline Shingle. She was born in Germantown in February 1814 and died in Germantown in December 1891. Her parents were Christian Shingle and his wife, Catharine Winder.

After Tudor Bringhurst's death in 1843 the house at 5448 Germantown Ave. was sold to Susan Mason. At one time an extensive carriage manufacturing business was carried on there and it would appear that during that period one of the front rooms of the house was used as a salesroom.

In 1875 the Rev. Charles W. Schaeffer, pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church at 6671 Germantown Ave., lived in the Bringhurst House. His wife was the former Elizabeth Frey Ashmead, sister of Dr. William Ashmead. It was while the Schaeffers were living in the house that the roof was changed. The gables were removed, and the existing gambrel roof and cornice were constructed. Pastor Schaeffer died March 25, 1890, and his wife died November 24, 1892.

Like the Bringhurst House, the Germantown Savings Bank has also been a part of the Germantown community for many years. "The Saving Fund Society of Germantown and its Vicinity" was chartered April 6, 1854, by Governor William Bigler, who served as Governor of Pennsylvania from 1852 to 1855. This long-winded title was later shortened to the terser term of Germantown Saving Fund.

The first office of the bank was located in a room on the second floor of the old Mutual Fire Insurance building at what was then Main and Armat Sts., now 5601 Germantown Ave. According to an item which appeared in the Germantown Telegraph at that time "deposites of money from ten cents upwards will be received on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 3 to 6 and 7 to 9 P.M." The bank officers were Abraham Martin, president; T. Charlton Henry, vice-president; Elliston P. Morris, secretary, and William A. Ulmer, treasurer.

The managers were listed as: A. Martin, George W. Carpenter, George H. Thomson, Ezra Comfort, Charles F. Ashmead, Lloyd Mifflin, John S. Twells, John S. Littell, Alfred Cope, Joseph Handsberry, Spencer Roberts, Paschall Coulter, Nathan Hilles and Philip R. Freas.

Also: Samuel Morris, Nathan L. Jones, Dr. Owen Wistar, Andrew McCallum, Charles H. Shoemaker, John S. Haines, Elliston P. Morris, Charles Spencer, F. William Bockius, Robert R. Levick, T. Charlton Henry, Joseph G. Mitchell, Joseph Deal, Thomas Goodwin, James R. Lambdin, William Heiss, Henry Fricke and Robert P. Smith.

The Samuel Morris listed lived next door to the Bringhurst House at the Deshler-Morris House. He was the son-in-law of Elliston Perot and had become the owner of the Deshler-Morris House in 1834.

The new bank's first move was "the building next above" at what is now 5605 Germantown Ave. This move took place in 1855.

In 1870 the bank moved to the "new bank house" at 4908 Main St. This address is figured under the old numbering system. Nowadays it would be 5706 Germantown Ave., just north of Chelten Ave.

In 1883 the bank moved to School House Lane and Germantown Ave. and in 1930 the cornerstone was laid for the building on that corner which now houses the bank.

For a time the Germantown Savings Bank used the Bringhurst House for its executive offices, but these have since been moved to the former Barclay Building

Continued on Page 56

OLD-TIME PHOTOGRAPHERS

Those Engaged in the Art of Taking Pictures in Germantown From the Day of the Popular Daguerreotype to the Later Processes

AMONG the characteristics of Germantown residents and Germantown as a community, in which justifiable pride is taken, is a disposition to be not the first to plunge into everything new that comes along, nor the last to put off the old when satisfied that the new is really worth while. There are scores of lines along which this principle may be traced in the real progress and the substantial growth of the Germantown section and in the wider fields in which its influence has been felt.

It was that way in the development of local photography, both in its artistic and commercial sense. This was readily ascertained when, at the suggestion of Dr. Naaman H. Keyser, whose great fund of knowledge of Germantown, past and present, is widely known, a representative of THE GUIDE began delving for something that would be of interest concerning the old photographers of Germantown.

Thomas Brooks, who resides at 30 West Duval street, was one of the Germantown residents who became interested in photography in its earlier days of commercial development. About 1862 he started in an amateur way to get results. He exhibits a picture taken of his sister as one of his first efforts. It stands out as clearly and as distinctly as if taken yesterday. He traced the history of photography from Wedgwood and Davy, who were the first to make photographs, as they are understood in these days, on paper, in reality a shadow picture. The process was slow and tedious, subject to many failures. About that time Daguerre came to the front with the daguerreotype. Having the advantage of being a somewhat faster process than the paper photographs, his method caught the popular fancy and for the time was generally used. The likenesses were made on a polished silver plate. Later this was displaced by a silver-plated copper plate, sensitized and developed. Then came the ambrotypes, collodion pictures on glass, and following them the melanotype, the original of the well-known tintype in cases. These were on black coated and japanned iron plates. Then came the photograph, made by slow and tedious process, with wet plates and tanks and varieties of solutions that required the photographer of former days to be as much chemist as artist. When he went afield, it was accompanied with a load of paraphernalia and he set up his tent or specially equipped wagon before he could start to work. The pictures were comparatively slow in the making, but they compare quite favorably with those of later, short-cut methods with plates and films, paper and solutions prepared for the photographer's hand. Bromide of silver, the right proportions of which were the bane of the old photographer's life, when applied with heat on a gelatine base, proved the secret of instantaneous photography.

Thomas Brooks, mentioned above, made his first business venture in photography in 1864 in Langstroth's building, now the Vernon building, but the light arrangements not being right, he continued but a short time. He went in business for another man in Philadelphia in 1866, and later spent some time in Indiana. In 1869 he had a gallery at 630 Arch street. For two years he was with Gutekunst, and for some years with Dunshee; during the latter period the dry plate process was introduced.

The first of the Germantown photographers with an established place of business of whom record is found, was Enan McDermond, at first designated as a daguerreotypist. He held forth in the second story of the old Germantown depot, at Main and Price streets, beginning in 1861. It fell to his portion to take the likenesses of many of the soldiers, departing from this neighborhood to participate in the campaigns and the battles of the Civil War and many were the results of his handicraft, photos of soldier boys who went forth never to return, or likenesses in the trappings of war, cherished in the families and among the friends for years thereafter. Mr. McDermond remained in business at that address, later for a short time at 20 Centre street (now East Rittenhouse street), until about 1870, when he formed a partnership with Morris Wilt, his son-in-law, and conducted a grain business at what was then 4827½ Germantown avenue. His daughter, Miss Vinie McDermond, was principal of the primary school on Centre street.

Another of the old-time and best known photographers was David Hinkle, whose place of business is given in the old directories as 4739 Germantown avenue. The number is now 5405 and a part of James S. Jones & Co.'s store occupies the site. His work is generally imprinted with the address, Germantown avenue, below Mill street (now Church lane). He began business there about 1863 or 1864. Later he removed to below Penn street on Germantown avenue, where he continued the business until a few years ago. He deserved great credit for having pre-

Continued on Page 50

Germantown Hi

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SPECIAL EVENTS (see map for locations)

- PLANT AND SHRUBBERY SALES
- BAKE SALE
- EXHIBITIONS OF 18TH CENTURY CRAFTS—SPINNING AND WEAVING
- VISIT WILL "BEN FRANKLIN" AT GERMANTOWN-STEVENS ACADEMY

1. CLIVEDEN — 6401 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

In 1763, at a site located on the six-mile post of the Germantown Road, Benjamin Chew, later Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, began the construction of his elegant Georgian country seat. The home was occupied by the British during the Battle of Germantown in October of 1777, and in spite of repeated attempts by Washington's forces to dislodge the enemy through fire and cannon, the house provided adequate shelter.

Cliveden continued to provide elegantly for generations of Benjamin Chew's descendants until it was generously donated to the National Trust for historic preservation in 1972.

2. UPSALA — 6450 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Considered one of the finest examples of late Georgian architecture in the United States, Upsala is actually two buildings, with two stories. The rear portion of the home was constructed late in the second decade of the eighteenth century in the provincial manner of early Germantown farm houses. The small farm served to hold the American cannons placed to fire on Cliveden during the Battle of Germantown. In 1798 John Johnson, grandson of the builder of the Johnson House—Tour House number four, erected the stylish Georgian front.

3. CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE — UPPER BURIAL GROUND 6309 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

The Upper Burial Ground was created soon after the founding of the community. In this quiet, green corner of Germantown rest some of the town's earliest settlers, including Cornelius Teisen—"the oldest marked grave in Pennsylvania."

The Concord School House was built in 1775 by citizens "of Upper Germantown" to relieve their children of the necessity of negotiating the rigors of the Germantown Road. (In that era of less than adequate highways, men were known to mount their horses to cross the street.) The long walk to Germantown Academy (Tour Stop number six) on dark and muddy streets was alleviated.

4. JOHNSON HOUSE — 6306 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Built in 1768 by John Johnson, this fine example of the "typical" early Germantown House has been carefully restored by the owners, the Women's Club of Germantown. The House stood in the center of one of the worst skirmishes during the Battle of Germantown as the British and Americans fought over fences and hedges behind the houses on the Germantown Road. The original fence from the Johnson House, still pock-marked with bullets and holes, is on display at the Germantown Historical Society Museum (Tour Stop number eleven.)

5. MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE — 6119 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

The original meeting house, erected of logs in 1708, was the first Mennonite meeting in the United States. The present church, still the "Mennonite Mother Church" was built in 1770. Inside the small building, original pews continue in use and the communion table was used in 1686 by the drafters of the first protest against slavery in the new world. William Rittenhouse, America's first papermaker, is buried in the small cemetery outside.

6. GERMANTOWN-STEVENS ACADEMY — SCHOOL HOUSE LANE AND GREENE STREET

The first buildings of the Academy were erected in 1760 by the German citizens of the community in response to Benjamin Franklin's attempt to force strict English education upon all foreign children. The Academy prospered, and during the Revolution its ample buildings were adapted for Hospital use. Washington, during his stay in Germantown, sent his nephew to the campus, and used the facilities for meetings of the Cabinet. In 1798, serious yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia caused the relocation of the Bank of North America and of Pennsylvania to the small school.

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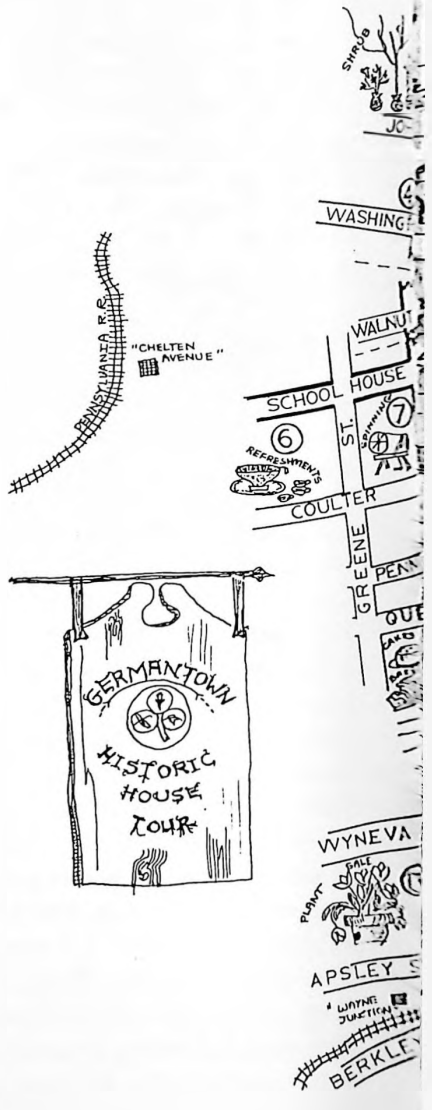
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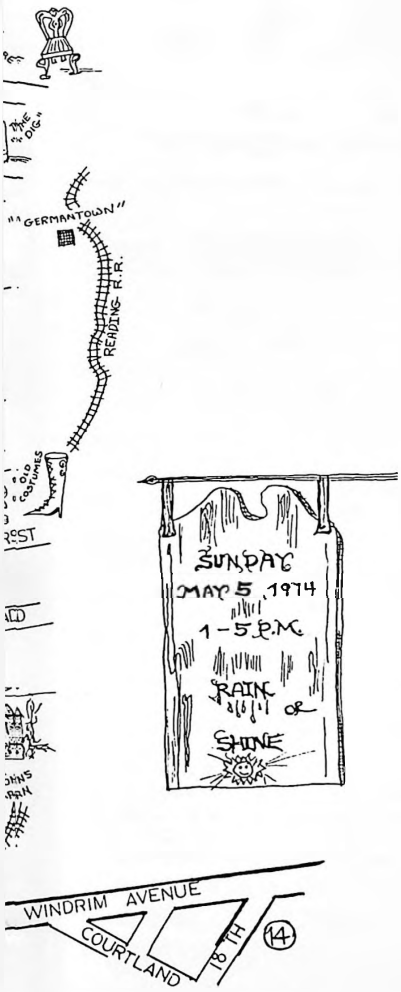
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7. DESHLER-MORRIS HOUSE — 5442 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Built in 1772 by David Deshler, this home was the headquarters of British General Howe during the Battle of Germantown, and in parts of 1793 and 1794 was rented by President George Washington to escape the yellow fever epidemics in the City of Philadelphia. Owned by the National Parks Service, and administered by committees of the Germantown Historical Society, research is underway for complete and accurate restoration of the building and grounds for the Bicentennial year.

8. CLARKSON-WATSON HOUSE — 5275 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

The property now houses the excellent costume museum of the Germantown Historical Society. Previously, it served as home to Thomas Jefferson, John Fanning Watson (Author of *Watson's Annals of Philadelphia*), and the Bank of Germantown. The exterior of the building has been restored to the era of Jefferson's occupancy, and extensive and complex systems to preserve the fragile fabrics of the ancient costumes have been installed.

9. GRUMBLETHORPE — 5267 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

"John Wister's Big House" was built in 1744 from locally quarried stone, and from massive oaks cut in "Wister's Woods." Originally intended as a summer home by the Philadelphia wine maker and merchant, it was not used for winter residence until the middle of the nineteenth century. It was occupied by British General Agnew during the Battle of Germantown. Managed by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, the home boasts an excellent early kitchen and beautiful grounds.

10.-12. GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM COMPLEX 5208-5218 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

The Howell House, built in 1770 by William Forbes, contains the Historical Society Toy Museum and the beautiful collections of early quilts, coverlets, and needlepoint.

The *Conyngham-Hacker House,* erected circa 1745-1772, is the main Museum of the Germantown Historical Society. Between the main building and the *Von Trott Annex* in the rear, every phase of early Germantown life is covered.

The *Baynton House* was built in 1802 by "Squire Baynton." The building today houses the Library of the Society and includes thousands of items of interest to historians and geneologists.

13. LOUDOUN — 4650 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

Erected in 1801 by Thomas Armat, a Philadelphia merchant, Loudoun was occupied by Thomas Armat's descendants until Maria Dickinson Logan, his great-great-granddaughter died in 1939 bequeathing the entire estate to the City of Philadelphia. Loudoun presents a splendid view thirty feet above Germantown Avenue on Neglee's Hill and is unique in Germantown. A beautifully restored kitchen is a highlight in a museum that represents more than Federal tastes, for this house is truly a home. It shows five generations of growth and change in furniture, art, and life-styles.

14. STENTON — 18th AND COURTLAND STREETS

Erected in 1727-1734 by James Logan—"receiver and Secretary to William Penn," a member of the Provincial Council, Judge, Mayor of Philadelphia, and Governor of the Province. The home was begun in the builder's 53rd year, and was to serve for his retirement caused by "a fall . . . in 1727 . . . which broke off the round head of my left thigh bone, close by ye joyne . . . ." The House and five acres are beautifully maintained by the Society of Colonial Dames, and recent summers have seen archeological preparations for the restoration of the barn which should be completed by the Bicentennial year.

Continued from Page 47

served for the present and future likenesses of persons and places that live in the memory of those who treasure Germantown historical associations.

Another of the older photographers was Mr. Williams, with a place of business on Germantown avenue, above Price street, next to Parker's Hall, now Goodwin's. John Ball, who resides at Price and Baynton streets, has a fund of anecdotes of that period of Germantown photography. He had a place on Rittenhouse street near Germantown avenue, and engaged principally in outdoor photography, the others previously mentioned devoting their time principally to portraiture.

Each of those moved along with the times and the development of the art. At first they were set down as daguerreotypists, then as ambrotypists, and finally stepping forth into the present designation of photographers.

Benjamin Dungan was a commercial photographer of a little later period with a place of business on Main street, above Mermaid lane. He did considerable work throughout this section. Historians are especially indebted to him for having photographed all the houses that formerly stood in Rittenhousetown. Most of these have since been removed by the Park authorities, only two of the buildings remaining standing, one the birthplace of David Rittenhouse and the other the Umstead property, now a part of the Providence General Hospital. The negatives were later secured and prints made from them for future preservation.

One whose achievements in the highest development of the art of portraiture and photography has made Germantown proud to claim him as its own, is Frederick Gutekunst. He was born in 1831 in one of two small houses that formerly stood on the site of the pair of large houses built by Benjamin Lehman in 1849, at what is now 5528 and 5530 Germantown avenue. These were removed later and the United Gas Improvement office and the Colonial Theatre were erected on the site. His skill and success in photography were gained after he had gone to Philadelphia. Through efforts and perseverance he worked his way through the College of Pharmacy, and while engaged in drug stores experimented with chemicals and took up photography as a hobby. His father, who was a cabinetmaker, made his first camera for him, and encouraged by his brother, he started in the business of making photographs. With what success his efforts met may be noted in the national reputation his studio has gained.

The Site and Relic Society of Germantown has a number of daguerreotypes and other old-time pictures in its possession among them the daguerreotype of several of the Murter family, the father, mother and sister, and Joseph Murter, who died in 1914 at the age of ninety-five. A plan is on foot to arrange an exhibit, to which others with interesting pictures of former Germantown people, places and scenes will be given an opportunity to contribute.

Many photographers, many studios have come and gone in Germantown since the pioneers in Civil War times were engaged in making likenesses of departing heroes or of those returned from scenes of strife, probably of mother, sister, wife or sweetheart, treasured by some absent soldier. Many amateurs have fixed for themselves scenes and faces of times that are gone. What a tale of progress, of change, of historic interest their combined work, if now available, might tell.

Reprinted from "The Guide" of April 29, 1916.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Germantown Historical Society

June 20, 1974—Garden Party

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Germantown Historical Society welcomes new members. Privileges of membership include attendance at all lectures, tours, and other functions sponsored by the Society. Members also receive current issues of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER without charge. Society dues are as follows:

Life (payable quarterly or at once)	$100.00
Sustaining, Business and Family	10.00
Annual	7.50
Junior (under 18), Teacher, or Librarian	3.00

Interested persons are cordially invited to obtain further information by writing to the chairman of the Membership Committee, Miss Ann Naile Phelps.

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OLD CHURCHES

By Josephine Ritter

Part 2

Sources:

Watson's Annals
Franklin's Autobiography
John T. Faris, Old Churches & Meeting Houses in and Around Philadelphia
Grant Miles Simon, Beginnings of Philadelphia
Historic Philadelphia, published by the American Philosophical Society
The Story of Christ Church, in Philadelphia.

"And to men's hearts, this ancient place endeared."
—Matthew Arnold.

ONE can hardly pass from the subject of Christ Church without noting the founding of the University of Pennsylvania in 1740. Neither can one write of religious gatherings in Philadelphia without mention of the Rev. George Whitefield, companion and friend of the Wesleys. His doctrine was unwelcome in most churches so he preached out-of-doors. A favorite place was the old court house on the corner of 2nd and Market Streets. Crowds came to hear him, sometimes as many as fifteen thousand filling the space from 2nd Street to the river. His followers were so devoted that they erected a building for him in which to preach, at 4th and Arch Streets; and it was in this same building that the Academy of Philadelphia was opened in 1751, through the efforts of Franklin and other influential citizens, who selected four-fifths of the Board of Trustees from the members of Christ Church. This was the beginning of the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1753 some members of the Parish first made request for another church to be built in Society Hill, nearer to the homes of many. The reason given was the condition of the Philadelphia streets which, in inclement weather, were impassable with mud. The six block trip to Christ Church became almost impossible by foot or carriage. Dr. Jenney, the rector, was not at all in favor of a "chapel of ease" but yielded to the persistent urging. The first grant of land from the Proprietaries, Thomas and Richard Penn, no longer Quakers but churchmen, was on the west side of 3rd Street. Eventually the lot was increased to include all the land on Pine Street from 3rd to 4th. In an agreement of August 5th, 1758, Robert Smith, the carpenter, was commissioned to build the chapel from the most detailed architectural specifications, the document for which still survives. We are told that when the Church was nearing completion in 1761, the vestry of Christ Church met on August 13th, and resolved "that the new Church be named St. Peter's" and that the first and best pew be turned over to the Proprietary Family of Pennsylvania for its occupancy and at no cost. George Washington occupied this pew. St. Peter's was opened on September 4th, 1761, with a special service. A colorful procession marched from Christ Church to the new "chapel of ease." First came the clerk and the sexton, then the questmen or warden's assistants, the vestry, the Governor and church warden, the clergy, who were to officiate, the Governor's Council, and attendants and the other clergy. The Rev. Dr. William Smith, the Provost of the College, preached the sermon. After referring to the dedication of Solomon's temple, he continued, "We too, my brethren, have been building a house to the Lord, not a superb and magnificent one, fitted to the ostentatious worship of the Lord, but a house decently neat and elegantly plain, fitted to the simplicity of that Gospel worship which must be performed in spirit and in truth." It, however was still not completed as witness the vestry minutes of March 2nd, 1763: "the said church is now happily finished (the pulpit and chancel excepted) and we have disbursed and paid the sum of four thousand seven hundred and sixty-five pounds in building it." This was about two thousand four hundred and fifty more than anticipated. By 1764, Robert Smith had at last built the pulpit and the reading desk and had erected rails around the chancel. It is presumed that the pulpit and lectern have always been at the west end, a most unusual arrangement. The Rev. Dr. Richard Peters became the first rector. In 1735 he was assistant minister at Christ Church, later he became a lawyer, and while Secretary of the Province, was noted for his wise and successful conferences with the Indians. The church is today very much as it was in 1761, as one historian says: "It is the same church to which the colonists came in their knee-britches and rich coats to attend divine service." The main change has been the addition of a spire in 1842, in earlier times there was just a belfry. One would suppose that the church going problem of the Society Hill members had been solved but fifteen years after the first agitation for a new church the vestry of the United Churches records: "The streets leading to St. Peter's Church not being paved are often so bad that people cannot come to Church."

Four of its rectors became bishops and three pewholders were appointed ambassadors to Great Britain; Joseph R. Ingersoll, George M. Dallas, and John Welsh. In the churchyard lie George M. Dallas, Benjamin Chew, Nicholas Biddle, Stephen Decatur and many other prominent citizens, one in particular, John MacPherson, Commander of the privateer Britannia, who took many prizes from the French when England and France were at war in the 1750s. It was

he who built a house high above the Schuylkill, calling it "Clunie" after his old home in Scotland, which is now known to us as Mt. Pleasant.

Just as St. Peter's was getting started, there was an upheaval at Christ Church. The Rev. William MacClenaghan, an assistant, left the church followed by a number of churchmen and dissenters to form a new parish, St. Paul's. Originally a Presbyterian, he joined the Church of England, and in 1755 was ordained a priest in London. In 1759, he came to Philadelphia and made such an impression preaching at Christ Church that he was invited to stay as assistant. But before long, according to Dr. Jenney, "his railings and revilings in the pulpit and his extemporanious praying were not agreeable to the canons." He offended the clergy at a convention in 1760, so with a good deal of parochial pushing he withdrew. The Rev. Dr. William Smith, writing to the Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The number that followed Mr. MacClenaghan from our Church to his Conventicle are but inconsiderable: & as they were tools of the Quaker Party to distract and divide, we think such a purgation a happy incident." Happy or not it was necessary in 1761 to make a new seating plan for Christ Church.

The land on which St. Paul's was built on the east side of 3rd Street, below Walnut came from various sources but it did not come into possession of the Corporation of St. Paul's until 1796. There is not as much known about this church as about Christ Church and St. Peter's. The building was remodeled in 1830, by William Strickland and a second storey added. The corporation was dissolved in 1901 and the property was conveyed to the rector, churchwardens, and vestrymen of St. Peter's and soon after it became the Protestant Episcopal City Mission.

When Mr. MacClenaghan was barred from Christ Church, eighteen Presbyterian ministers, who were then assembled in Synod in Philadelphia, wrote on his behalf to the Archbishop of Canterbury but to no avail. The organization meeting for St. Paul's was held in the State House. Many men prominent in the affairs of the city and nation lent support, Thomas Leech, one of three men charged with the purchase of a bell for the State House, John Ross, lawyer, son of the Rev. George Ross, rector of Emmanuel Church, New Castle, John Baynton, member of Assembly and disbursing officer of the fund to pay the troops in the French and Indian War, Plunket Fleeson, member of Assembly and Major James Benezet, three times mayor of Philadelphia. The new church was the largest in the Province and within a few days one thousand seatings were taken. The first service was on Christmas Day, 1761. A contemporary describes the building thus: "There was no basement. The outside walls were of brick which have since been plastered. The entrance gate, imported from England, was greatly admired by the town's people. High backed pews like those of Christ Church and St. Peter's were installed, as was a sounding board over the pulpit."

The Rev. George Whitefield was permitted to preach in this pulpit and for many years the church was crowded to the doors. The Rev. William Stringer was rector when the Revolution began and, like many clergy, was loyal to the king, but the parishioners of St. Paul's cared nothing for the Church of England as a state church, though they used the Prayer Book they refrained from praying for the royal family and the king against whom they were fighting. The break between rector and congregation came while Washington was at Valley Forge and many men of the church were with him. On the Sunday after the British entered the city Mr. Stringer read the lesson from the twentieth chapter of Ezekiel, "I will purge out the rebels from among you." That was too much for the parishioners, they purged themselves of Mr. Stringer.

There is no doubt that the bottom floor of the present building was the Church. Though it is now divided into rooms, the grave stones in the floor by their arrangement suggest the aisle of a church. These slabs mark the resting of several of its rectors. One should also take note that Edwin Forrest, one of America's greatest actors, is buried here.

The Presbyterian Church

The Old Pine Street Church, properly called the Third Presbyterian Church, on Pine Street west of 4th, is the only Presbyterian Church built before the Revolution that remains in the old city. In 1692, the few Presbyterians in the colony met for worship in the Barbadoes Store, by courtesy of the Baptists, who had been meeting there since 1688. The two denominations agreed to take alternate Sundays. The Barbadoes store was a small frame warehouse built by the Society of Free Traders, a company patented by Penn and from which Society Hill gets its name. This corporation devoted itself to wishful thinking on a grand scale. Speculation in real estate, mining, fishing for whales and manufacturing soon led to financial ruin. For some obscure reason the Baptists moved to the Brew House of Anthony Morris on Second Street, leaving the Presbyterians in possession of the warehouse. Their first minister was Jedediah Andrews, a Harvard graduate, who came to Philadelphia in 1699. It was under his guidance that in 1704 a frame church building was erected on the southeast corner of Market Street and Bank or White Horse Alley, the second small street from Third as you go toward the Delaware. The members were English Dissenters, Welsh Calvinists and French Huguenots. The first Presbytery was organized in this church in 1705–06. This church was familiarly called "Old Buttonwood" from the trees which surrounded it. Little is known of this building or its enlargement in 1729. The best description is by Peter Kalm, a Swedish scientist, who wrote in 1748: "The old Presbyterian Church is not far from the market and on the south

side of Market Street. It is of middling size and built in the year 1704, as the inscription on the north pediment shows. The roof is built almost hemispherical or at least forms half a hexagon. The building stands north and south, for the Presbyterians are not so particular as other people whether their churches face a certain point of the heavens or not."

The auction block where slaves were sold was right in front of this church.

This building was enlarged in 1755 and again in 1761. In 1793 it was rebuilt, an imposing structure with four Corinthian columns on the Market Street facade. This is the building which appears in the well known drawing by Birch. Back of the church was the graveyard where the members expected to lie in peace for ever. Here too were brought the bodies of many soldiers and patriots during the Revolution. Later, in 1822, this church moved to 7th and Locust Street on Washington Square, to a beautiful Greek Revival building designed by John Haviland. The burying ground proved quite a problem when the old church was given up. Many of the bodies were moved to the new graveyard on Pine Street and reinterred in no known order and their tombstones plastered against the rear wall.

Among the early ministers of the First Church was the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison, Vice-Provost and Professor of Moral Philosophy at the College of Philadelphia. A profound scholar, he taught no less than four governors, eight congressmen and four signers of the Declaration. He was followed by Dr. John Ewing, who was also Provost and Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of the State of Pennsylvania and Professor of Mathematics at the College of Philadelphia. He was not popular with everyone and it is said that Benjamin Rush disagreed with him and left the church. Whatever Dr. Ewing might have been, he was a staunch patriot and there were no prayers for the king said in this church after the Declaration of Independence.

The preaching of George Whitefield had a decided influence on many Philadelphians not committed to any form of religion as well as on some Presbyterians. Gilbert Tennent, another famous preacher, also had a following. These and a number of members of the First Church felt they would be happier with a church of their own, so the Second Presbyterian Church was organized. Among its charter members were the two William Shippens, father and son, John Bayard, William Bradford, the printer, John Rhea, Benjamin Armitage and Andrew Hodge. The first home of the new church was in the building that had been put up for George Whitefield at 4th and Arch Streets. Six years later this building was sold to the Academy at Philadelphia and a new church was erected on the northwest corner of 3rd and Arch Streets. A wooden steeple was later added to the west end rivaling that of Christ Church. Some members of the latter were so annoyed that a bit of doggerel was passed about:

The Presbyterians built a church
And fain would have a steeple
We think it may become the church
But not become the people.

The Second Church continued on this site until 1837 when a westward move was made.

From the tremendous growth of the Second Church came the Third Presbyterian Church, located in Society Hill. Accordingly, in 1762, the Propietaries, Thomas and Richard Penn transferred to the congregation of the old "Presbyterian Meeting House" a lot at 4th and Pine Streets. Under the direction of John Moon, William Rush, James Craig, George Bryan and Samuel Purvis, Jr., a new church was begun, designed by Robert Smith. Of these men, William Rush was to become a colonel in Washington's army, and George Bryan, a Justice of Pennsylvania. The Market Street or First Church paid most of the cost and in 1768 the members met in one of the finest buildings of their communion in the colonies and "now the only living colonial church of the Presbyterian denomination on its original foundations in Philadelphia." It was at first a subsidiary of the First Church but soon became entirely independent. One of the most dramatic scenes in its early days must have been the occasion when the congregation gathered and sat for three hours. After an interval of silence the minister, the Rev. George Duffield, spoke: "We are gathered here today to say farewell to our dear friends who are about to go out as missionaries to Pittsburgh. They are going into great dangers and perils and it is likely they will soon die. In anticipation of this sad event we will now sing their funeral dirge."

John Adams was a member of "Old Pine," as was also the signer, James Wilson. The pastor, Dr. Duffield, was so fervent in the cause of Liberty that the British offered a reward of fifty pounds for his capture. The British vented a particular wrath on Presbyterian churches using them as stables and their pews for firewood.

Among those who served on its Board of Trustees were: Dr. William Shippen, Jr., first professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Colonel Thomas Robinson, shot down at the Battle of Brandywine, Colonel Robert Knox, head of four companies, enlisted by himself and known as Knox's Own, Dr. Samuel Duffield, worker in hospitals and member of the Continental Congress and many more of equal importance.

Today after extensive changes in 1837, and again in 1857, this church is according to Dr. Brainerd "a beautiful and classic temple, uniting the associations of venerated antiquity with the demands of modern taste."

The third and last part of Mrs. Ritter's "Old Churches" will appear in the Summer edition. EDITOR

Come See Our Garden

The Morris House garden has been famous throughout the years—first when David Deshler built the house in 1772–1773. He was very much interested and quite knowledgeable in the selection of plants and trees for what later became known as "David Deshler's Green Garden." It is 100 feet wide and 435 feet long and affords a wonderful sweep of greenery as one enters through the gate.

During many owners occupancy it undoubtedly remained lovely, but gardens need constant loving care which apparently was not always given. Even so, trees and plants sometimes do survive and fortunately many of the fine specimens have.

In 1859 the House was inherited by Elliston Perot Morris from his father Samuel B. Morris and once again the garden was well cared for. "Germantown Rare and Notable Plants" by Edwin C. Jellet (published in 1904) tells of Mr. Morris' knowledge of trees and plant material who said "I doubt not some of the older trees were here when it was President Washington's residence during the yellow fever epidemic in 1793."

In 1915 another account of the Deshler-Morris garden was published by the Site and Relic Society of Germantown, John Jay Smith, editor of Downings Horticulturist from 1855 to 1860, and founder of the Germantown Horticultural Society, said "To me there are four distinctive types of landscaping in Germantown Gardens — Grumblethorpe, Wyck, Thomas Drake and Elliston P. Morris." . . . The last of the types in mind is the classical, picturesque, dignified, impressive type most beautifully exhibited upon the grounds of Elliston P. Morris, where through the open gate glimpses of this garden gem may be enjoyed.

The present Mrs. Elliston Morris has mentioned the efforts of Aunt Bessie (Miss Elizabeth Morris, the last resident before the House was given to the Department of the Interior under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service in 1949), who took great pride in her garden and who offered a reward of $1.00 to anyone finding a dandelion in her garden.

We are not trying to recreate an eighteenth century garden, but we have preserved any and all plants and trees possible to save after more than twenty years of neglect—also, David Deshler's "green grass."

Another rewarding project is our "Memorial planting." The House Committee and many interested friends contribute funds for the purchase of trees and shrubs which are planted in memory of family and friends.

We welcome you—come visit the Deshler-Morris House and garden. We know it will be a rewarding experience.

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The Colonial Clergy of the Middle Colonies, 1628–1776 by Frederick Lewis Weis—By purchase.

The Victorian Home in America by John Maass—By purchase.

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Article entitled "A Visit to the Presser Home for Retired Music Teachers" Nov. 1972 issue of Music Educators Journal—*Gift of Mrs. Beatrice Crane.*

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BRINGHURST HOUSE—*continued from Page 46*

at City Line and Belmont Aves. in Bala-Cynwyd.

As the bank was anxious to have its former property, which is an important part of historic Germantown, well maintained and preserved, the decision was made to turn it over to the National Park Service. So keys and deed were transferred January 22, 1974.

After the ceremony of transfer took place, officials and others interested in historic Germantown present moved next door to the Deshler-Morris House where a reception was held under the auspices of the Women's Committee of the Deshler-Morris House. Mrs. Richard S. Wilson is chairman of the committee.

Historic "Dogtown"

MANY CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED

By "Mr. Mosby"

POSSIBLY no place in America is so rich in historic matter as old Germantown. Every foot of ground from the "lower end," once known as Smearsburg, to upper Chestnut Hill, has some story of Revolutionary history.

Having roughly sketched most of the important spots in this historic territory, I now turn my attention to what in my boyhood days was called the "upper end," with several pet names, including that of Franklinville, Beggarstown, and even Dogtown. My venerable friend, "Grandpop" Albert Yocum, takes me over this historic tract, and we together note the many changes during the last half century. Fifty years ago old Franklinville was a slow place, and with the exception of the Carpenter place was not as popular as some other parts of Germantown. True, it had its Revolutionary attractions, including the old Billmeyer home, the old St. Michael's Lutheran Church, which was organized in 1730, and its old graveyard containing the dead since Revolutionary days. It also had the old Dunkard Church, founded in 1745, with its great history, including men like Mack and other great men of note. The historic graveyard of this church contains many heroic dead who have passed away since the Revolutionary days.

An Historic Territory

The original Franklinville began at what is known as Upsal street, and continued to about Carpenter or Gorgas street. It contained several side roads, unpaved and without sewers or gas (only natural gas), and was blessed with one little school house, a few old-time stores kept by Bockius, Pullinger, the Hammers, the Minningers, the Pauls and a few others. Several mills were on this historic tract, including those conducted by the McCallums, the Randalls, the Crowsons, the Hayes, the Bairs, the Goulds and several smaller establishments, which gave employment to many of the inhabitants.

The old Franklin Fire Company was a power in its day.

Several hotels, including the "Old Buck," kept by the good Widow Roop, the Farmers', Norman's, and a few others where man or beast could be refreshed, were part of Franklinville, as was the old frame hall known as Johnson's Hall, and here the good people of old Germantown could assemble and dance and even see the great wizard, Signor Blitz, with his "egg bag and trained canaries." This was the only hall for miles around, and was up-to-date, too. Here General Tom Thumb was a welcome visitor.

Philadelphia was reached by using the old stage coaches or "shank's mare," until 1868, when the horse car line extended to this place.

But in time the old farms as well as the frog ponds had to go out of business, when the stand-still policy of the old-timers was superseded by the opening of streets, repaving, and a general resurrection. Prominent in this war for progression were the Tourison brothers, Victor Paul, Martin Hetzel, William Royal, and other live men, and old Franklinville soon became a garden spot.

Changes Noted

Even without my spectacles I noticed a wonderful transformation in almost everything in this old Revolutionary tract.

The grand old Carpenter property, with its acres of shrubbery, its greenhouses and its wonderful clock, had given up the ghost and now was the finest residential district in the State, and they called it Pelham. Near the site of the old mansion, once the pride of the town, stood a handsome structure, and they called it the "Pelham Bank."

It is said Mr. Joyce, who had been gardener for Mr. Carpenter for many years, recently got lost while trying to locate parts of the old farm.

The old Tannahill farm is no more, as Tourison has erected a pretty town thereon, which is now a part of Pelham.

Even the famous old hall, with old Tipperary in its rear, as well as the three old-time taverns, have given way for business improvements.

Many of the old farms where the boys delighted to sample the fruit, as well as the turnips, have been transformed into pretty homes. Even the famous farm just above Upsal street, "on the west side too," where the finest bullfrogs and mosquitos once gave nightly concerts, has been transformed into a pretty town, with every convenience, even "phones."

The new fire station, with its modern appliances, is second to none in the city. The new post office is all that could be desired, and "Uncle Abe" Thomas and his assistants thoroughly understand their business.

The Crusaders' League, composed of a number of progressive people, is a power, too, and is trying to make the world better.

The stores, both grocery and drygoods, are all right, and only city prices are charged. Several new meat shops are in evidence, especially the large Pelham Market, and I noticed a big reduction in the price of liver, pig's-feet, sausage, "ponhorse" and saurkraut, with trading stamps thrown in.

The hardware business, the shoe business, as well as the drug business, were very brisk, and I noticed one shop where shoes and umbrellas were made equal to new, and they carried school supplies, including tape and chewing gum.

Very few hotels are on this historic tract, as the Prohibitionists are a power here.

I visited the old Paul store, once kept by "Uncle Josey" Paul. Here in this old Revolutionary shop you could get a supply of everything, from a plough to a baby's rattle, or a pound of putty. "Uncle Josey" is still in the flesh, and is able to ride a horse, and, like all the Paul family, who were numerous here, is pure and incorruptible.

Although several first-class doctors reside here on this tract, and each rides a bike, auto or on "shanks," yet few deaths occur here, and no undertaker is in evidence as yet.

I noticed several offices where real estate could be bought or rented. Most of them fixed up pension vouchers, made wills, and made people happy, etc.

Several eating houses were in evidence, and one could get a tender chop, a hard-boiled egg, or even a piece of pie, for less than a dollar.

The barber business was booming, too, as were the oyster and fish business, the boarding and lodging house business, and things generally looked prosperous. I was informed that the "Upper End" contained a number of historians who were doing a good work—men like Victor Paul, Francis Heyl and others.

The old Revolutionary churches were up and doing, and now the new Epiphany has been added to the list and is growing rapidly.

Just think of Franklinville having two steam railroads on its borders, as well as two trolley lines through its centre. And now these good people want an elevated and "a-cent-a-mile rate."

I noticed that Wendell & Smith, also Sol. Greenburg, were building up the entire west side, while Tourison, Mauer and others were attending to the eastern end.

I was taken over the West Side and shown the beautiful Lincoln drive, and wherever I gazed I found a transformation, delightful, too.

From N. K. Ployd, of Germantown, "Scrap Book" compiled 1907–1909.

Publications of the Germantown Historical Society

Magazine

The GERMANTOWN CRIER, published in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, is available at the subscription rate of $2.00 annually.

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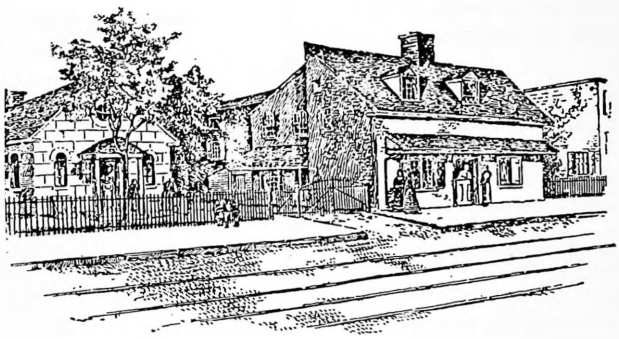
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OLD-TIME RESIDENTERS



OLD DUNKARD CHURCH

From "The Scrap Book" compiled by N. K. Ployd, of Germantown, about 1907–1909.

Being familiar with old historic Franklinville for more than a half century, I can recall many old-timers, among the number being the Carpenters, McCallums, Hinkles, McColloughs, Pauls, Schaeffers, Shieldses, Roops, Kings, Tourisons, Crowsons, Randalls, Hetzels, Links, Edwardses, Bockiuses, Minningers, Billmeyers, Lipps, Glasseys, Leiberts, Somers, Crawfords, Petermans, Rittenhouses, Powells, Pullingers, Corwells, Reilleys, Royals, Tannahills, Bayards, Herters, Hergesheimers, Snyders, Goods, Schulls, Gaharts, Crooks, Acheys, Silvers, Goulds, Barrs, Idells, Joyces, Neilsons, Abeys, Goslines, Wilsons, Freases, Guyers, Sandersons, Scheetzes, Jaggars, Hammers, Wunders, Sibsons, and numerous others just as upright.

Many of these good people have gone to their reward. Peace to their ashes.

The Upper End in War Times

The old Revolutionary graveyards of St. Michael's Lutheran and the old Dunkard on Main street tell their own story of a patriotic people from Revolutionary days to the present time.

Here in these sacred spots are the remains of many patriots of four wars.

Coming down to the War for the Union, we find old Franklinville among the first to respond to Lincoln's call for troops to defend the flag of our country.

Who among us forgets the services of the hero of Mexico and of the Civil War, Captain A. S. Tourison, and of his heroic son, Lieutenant William Tourison, who fell at Gettysburg, and of the lamented John and Harry Nice, and Enos Minninger, Alfred Lees, who fell on the same field, and of Philip Hammer, who died in Libby Prison, and of the gallant Moore boys, Torode, Dedier, Fetters, Kepple, Purvis, Fernbrother, Rhinehurst, Ring, Idell, Carpenter, Urwiler, Zippler, Schaeffer, Wilson, Strouse, Stintsman, Rittenhouse, Eastburn, Gaharts, Guyers, Gosline, Paul, Kitson, Powell, Van Horn, Edwards, Abey, Dewees, Crawford, Glassey, W. Randall, Hetzel, King, and the seven half-brothers of the McMurtrie-Neilson family, as well as scores of other brave men who went forth to battle from old Franklinville and surroundings.

I have met the Franklinville boys in our school days. I have met them on Southern soil during the dark days of 1861–65, and I frequently meet a few survivors at this late day, and delight to talk over the past, as well as the present, and in my poor weak way try to give some little credit to a people who are worthy of special recognition.

Volumes could be written of old historic Franklinville and its good people, but the unpretentious writer is satisfied to sketch only a few events that come under his observation and note some changes since his boyhood days.

An Exciting Discovery

By AMELIA N. FARR

An 18th Century spy-glass, probably the only one of its kind in Germantown, has been found in a trunk in the attic of Loudoun. It was carefully wrapped in heavy flannel, then in several folds of an 1835 newspaper, undoubtedly by an Armat of that day who considered the trunk the best place for its safe-keeping.

The trunk also contained all sorts of old newspapers, "trade" cards and advertisements covering the Centennial (1875). Because this material was on top of the spy-glass it was not discovered until a search for Centennial treasures of whatever kind was being made in preparation for the coming celebration.

How one's imagination can wander. When Loudoun was built in 1801 there was a captain's walk atop this lofty three-story mansion. It seems logical to assume that Thomas Armat, who was an importer of fabrics, watched his ships sail up the Delaware with this beautiful instrument. Imagine, if you will, what excitement this spy-glass afforded by making it possible to see ships coming into port flying the flags of foreign lands and loaded with precious cargoes from around the world as well as sailors who spoke many languages. All the glamour, and the squalor, that goes with the sea could be captured by this spy-glass from Loudoun's observation "walk."

The spy-glass was made in 1736 by J. C. Cuffs, of London.

Loudoun is at 4650 Germantown Avenue. It is open to the public Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 to 4:00 P.M., also the first and third Sunday of every month—same hours.

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