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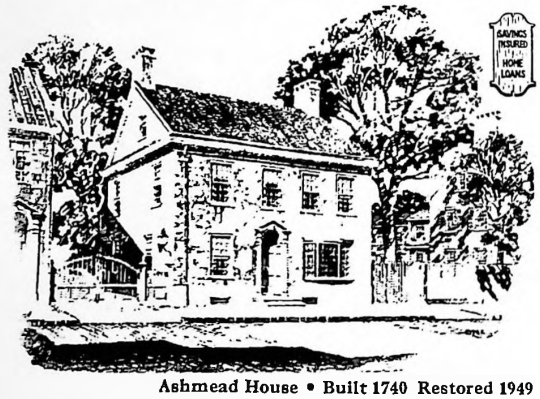
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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Vol. 6 MAY, 1954 No. 2

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Volume One, numbers 1 to 10, of the old "Site and Relic Society's" publications, are for sale at the Museum, and also Volume Two, numbers 1 to 8. Some of the second volumes are in the name of the Germantown Historical Society, the old name being discontinued during that period. The prices of the separate numbers vary from 25c to $1. They can be purchased separately or the whole 18 copies can be bought for $7.50. The publications start from the very beginning of the Society, and many of the articles were written by old historians now dead, and constitute first hand information. An index comes free of charge for the first ten numbers, no index has been made of Volume Two.

Copies of current issues of the CRIER may be purchased at the Museum, the Morris House, and at various stores in Philadelphia, Germantown, Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill.

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ERRATA

Correction, VOL. 6, No. 1.
In PARK HOUSES; Breck, not Brock; Architect Notman, not Notham.

JOURNAL OF A TOUR TO LONGBRANCH NEW JERSEY IN 1798

By Sarah Wheeler

Introduction by George Clarence Johnson

The Original Journal has been preserved in the Archives of the Library of the Germantown Historical Society. It has been copied page by page as it appears in the original Journal. This Journal is interesting to us because it was written by a Philadelphia Quaker girl of 17 yrs of age and who in 1800 became the wife of John Johnson III, 1774–1825 and they were the first to live at "Upsala", built by him. He was the son of Joseph Johnson (1750–1797) and grandson of John Johnson senior, (1708-1794).



SARAH WHEELER

SARAH Wheeler was born Sept. 8th. 1780 died at Upsala Dec. 23rd 1853. was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Jones Wheeler.

July 25, 1796. After much Dissappointment and Difficulty, at length through the exerations of Sister Mary, our small Company consisting of T. Shannon, Brother Enoch, Sister Eliza and myself left Philadelphia about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the weather was rather warm, but the ride could not be called dissagreeable along a road so beautifully diversified with fine prospects.

The sun had nearly sunk behind the western hills when we reached Dunk's Ferry,* we suffered considerable detention on account of some waggons that were crossing, however the pale light of the moon sufficiently compensated for the absence of Daylight, and I still recollect with pleasure, the soothing meloncholy that fastened on my mind, as I gazed on the scenery around and listened to the stilly noise of the oars dashing the water, I wished it to last longer & almost regretted our reaching the Jersey shore so soon,—after a short ride arrived at—

BURLINGTON

where—we had an excellent supper, after which a charming walk along the Delaware, on the banks of which this town is agreeably situated, after a tolerable night's rest rose early, and pursued our Journey, it began to rain soon after we set off and continued till we reached

CROSSWISE

July 26 Where we stopped no longer than to breakfast then continued our ride along the flat and sandy roads of Jersey.

The eye is satiated by continually looking on a dull level, interspersed here and there by small frame houses. O how far superior are the cultivated hills and smiling vallies of Pennsylvania, and if we do receive a Jolt now and then over a stoney, rough piece of road, still, still I profere it to such a continual sameness, we passed through several small towns of which I have forgotten the names and about noon got to

MONMOUTH

Monmouth, which tho one of the Principal actions of the late War, was Fought near this place, appears to have nothing to recommend it, but its sounding name, and the figure that it makes in the American history, the houses look shabby and Dirty and the inhabitants not much better, when on the spot where any great event has happened, the mind is naturally elevated by the recollection of it, but the Present appearance of Monmouth bore so little resemblance to the idea I had formed of it, that I was pleased when we left it, for a comfortable Inn called THE COLT'S NECK, where after having a bowl of excellent Syllabubs we retired to rest, clean beds, and enjoyed that sweet repose, which generally succeeds a day spent in fatigue.

July 27. . . . The morn was rather foggy which made our early ride, not quite so pleasant—the road

(*Continued on page 27*)

*Dunk's Ferry wharf used to be on the bank of the Delaware River not far above Cornwells, Bucks County, Penna. Dunk's Ferry Road started at Byberry Road, in Byberry township, now consolidated in the city of Philadelphia. It led to the ferry.

GERMANTOWNE CRIER

Volume 6 MAY, 1954 Number 2

The Strange History of The Paxtang Raid

"A Battle, a Battle, a Squirt;
Where no man is killed and no man is hurt."

by EDMUND A. CRENSHAW

THE original cause of the Paxtang (or Paxton) raid is to be found in the inept government and Indian forays on the Pennsylvania frontier. Due to callousness and misunderstanding, the affair took on the characteristics of a comic opera in Philadelphia, which almost turned into another tragedy. After it was over, a flood of pamphlets were issued by the contending factions. The serio-comic nature of these may be judged by the quotation used above as a sub-title. In fact the raid gained such fame, through these pamphlets, that a Frenchman wrote a farce founded on the story, which, translated into English, caused much merriment in the Colonies.

—Pamphlets and farce in manuscript collection Historical Society of Pennsylvania

As early as 1717–18 there was a movement of settlers toward what is now the central part of Pennsylvania. At that time the "Manor of Conestoga" was laid out under instructions from the Governor. This area of some 16,000 acres on the east side of the Susquehanna river, north of Conestoga Creek, was uninhabited by Indians; they had moved further up the Susquehanna.

In the following 40 years a few Indians established a village not far from the present site of Columbia. Visiting Indians, referred to as "tramps", filtered in and out of this settlement from time to time and were accused of "spying out objects for cruelty" and directing attacks resulting in robbery and murder. They claimed to be peaceful residents of Conestoga Town, but were definitely not members of the tribes who had originally inhabited this area—a matter of importance in what followed. Indian raids later became a common occurrence and crops, barns, and houses were burned, inhabitants tortured and murdered, and their bodies mutilated. Hundreds of settlers were left in abject poverty and actually starving as a result.

Repeated appeals for help to the Governor of Pennsylvania and to the Provincial Assembly, then dominated by Quakers opposed to any military action, brought no relief to the Scotch-Presbyterian settlers on the frontier. The settlers accused the Quakers of coddling savage Indians known to be murderers, and unwilling to take action against them because of a very profitable trade in furs. Chief of those who benefitted from the fur trade was Israel Pemberton, nick-named "King Wampum".

This controversy raged with much virulence for some time and with much name calling. It is a remarkable fact that these people, on both sides, who had come to this country largely to enjoy religious freedom, now displayed a high degree of intolerance toward each other.

Naturally the settlers whose lives were in danger and who had seen their neighbors, and even their own families, scalped and killed in cold blood, were quite intemperate in their criticism of the rather weak Provincial government.

A small number of British Regulars were in the colony, but they were far too few to be of much assistance in guarding a frontier of 200 miles.

In response to repeated appeals and demands for protection, the Governor replied that he could do nothing, but he finally authorized the arming and equipping of two companies of "Paxtang Rangers," to be headed by the Reverend John Elder, who was commissioned Colonel of this force. He was the pastor of the Paxtang and Derry churches and seems to have been a very able and public spirited individual and a real leader in the community.

REFERENCES
History of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties—Egle.
Watson's Annals Germantown 1683–1933—Hocker.

The Paxtang Rangers were truly a terror to the Indians, swift of foot, excellent horsemen, good shots, skilful in pursuit, dexterous as scouts, and quite expert in carrying on warfare of this kind. Originally the companies consisted of 30 men each, not including their officers; this was later considerably increased. The Rangers did much to protect the settlers in forestalling raids and driving out parties of hostile Indians. They could not entirely prevent such raids, however, and conditions remained most unsettled. The settlers carried their arms into the fields with them and even to church services.

Letters from responsible neighbors in that region show the conditions; for example, there is a letter from John Harris at Paxton to Edward Shippen, Esq., at Lancaster, dated October 26th, 1755: "At Tulpehoccan Peter Spycher found four Indians sitting on children scalping them, three of them dead and two alive without scalps. Thence to watch house of Dirich sixth, found six dead bodies from being scalped. They have burned four plantations."

Another letter, from Pastor John Elder, dated November 9th, 1755, reads in part: "Small party of guard at Tullyhoe's gap of mountains 5 were killed and two wounded. Transmit them to Philadelphia and remonstrate and petition from time to time yet to no purpose, so we seem given up into the hands of the mercilus enemy. There are within this few weeks upwards of 40 of his Majesty's subjects massacred on frontiers of this and Cumberland Counties yet nothing but debates of the two parties of our Legislature instead of uniting to protect the Province.

What may be the end unless vigorous methods are used, we in these back settlements will fall a sacrifice."

There are many other affidavits of similar events, so the settlers' dissatisfaction with the policies of the Government, and their vigorous reaction to raids, is quite understandable.

Perhaps the most vivid is this letter from Edward Biddle at Reading to his father in Philadelphia: "I am in so much horror and confusion I scarce know what I am writing (Sunday one o'clock) the drum is beating to arms and the bells ringing, and all the people under arms. This moment an express has arrived from Michael Reiss at Tulpehoccan, 18 miles off, who left 30 of their people engaged with an equal number of Indians at said Reiss. This night we expect an attack. Truly alarming is our situation. The people exclaim against the Quakers and are scarce restrained from burning the houses of those few who are in this town. Oh my Country, my bleeding Country . . . ."

Finally on September 13, 1763 Elder requested Governor Hamilton to have all Indians removed from the areas opened for settlement and pledged the security of the frontier if this were done. He charged that Indians, including strange Indians, were sheltered and protected by the authorities making it impossible to protect the legitimate settlers. But the Governor refused to take any action as did John Penn who made little attempt to examine the facts and merely referred to the original contract with William Penn, which had no bearing on this situation. It was well known that these Indians were not the original owners of the land.

At last the Paxtang Rangers, losing patience, banded together and in spite of the vigorous objections of Pastor (Colonel) Elder proceeded to attack the Indian village from which the marauders came. A battle ensued during which most of the Indians were killed. But a few who were prowling around the settlements during the time of the battle escaped and were eventually sheltered by the authorities in the Lancaster County workhouse. A request was made that these Indians be removed to Philadelphia or elsewhere for safekeeping. But once again no action was taken and when the Rangers learned that among this group was an Indian reputed to be the leader of several attacks on the Settlers, a group variously reported as from 20 to 50 members visited Lancaster with the announced intention of taking this Indian to Carlisle for trial. The Indians being armed resisted and in a further fight all of them were killed. The local authorities apparently took no action and a body of British Regular troops in the vicinity did not interfere. Local reports stated that no women or children were killed and that there was no brutality.

This event caused great indignation among the Quakers, who blamed the Governor, the Assembly and other authorities. The Frontier Commanders were relieved of their posts as punishment, and the Assembly ordered the arrest of the Raiders concerned and offered rewards for their apprehension. Announcement was also made that all those concerned would be taken to Philadelphia for trial instead of being tried in their own Counties.

Pastor Elder willingly gave up his command but on 30 January, 1764, wrote to the Governor complaining of the sheltering of murderous Indians at great public expense while nothing was done for the protection of settlers who were loyal citizens.

John Penn reported to his Uncle Thomas Penn in London confirming the slaughter and stated that the general sentiment favored the Paxtang residents and that it was probably impossible to arrest or persecute the Raiders.

Early in January 1764 a meeting was held of Settlers from Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks, and Northampton Counties and a lengthy Declaration was adopted, setting forth their grievances as to lack of protection and any measures to relieve distressed settlers, the sheltering of Indians admittedly guilty of attacks on the settlements, the subsequent threats to have Settlers removed to other Counties than their own for trial, and other complaints. (Histories of the period give the date of this Declaration as 13

February, 1764, but it was actually delivered in Philadelphia several days earlier. The discrepancy is not explained.)

This Declaration was adopted after approval by over 1500 delegates to the meeting and it, together with many accompanying letters by prominent members of the community, was directed to be delivered to the Government in Philadelphia. A group of Settlers reported by a Moravian Minister, who was in no way favorable to them, to number about 100; he was detailed to carry these documents to Philadelphia and present them to the proper authorities. He stated that they were a well dressed and orderly group and guilty of no improper conduct.

Reports reached Philadelphia of the formation of this group and it was rumored that the Frontier Settlers were coming en masse to put all the sheltered Indians, including the Moravian Indians, to death. Their numbers were estimated variously at 250 to 3000, and this news created conditions verging on panic in the City.

The Governor seems to have made no attempt to investigate, but promptly called a meeting which was attended by 3000 or more citizens, read the Riot Act, and proceeded to enroll 150 or more citizens to assist the soldiers. A former artillery company was hastily reorganized, barricades were erected, and four cannon and the necessary ammunition were prepared and sent to the barracks. Young and old Quakers who had refused to participate in the French, Spanish and Indian wars attended and enrolled but the Germans were conspicuously absent, and according to the Reverend Henry Muhlenberg were therefore suspected of sympathy with "the Rebels".

Arrangements were made that in event of any alarm during the night bells were to be rung, upon which inhabitants were to assemble with arms and report to the barracks and, if the town was attacked, to assemble at the Court House and prepare to defend the City.

The next day, Sunday, February 5th the weather was fine and there was intense excitement and much activity. A redoubt was built in the center of the parade of the barracks at Northern Liberties, the gateway being fortified with thick planks, pierced for use of musketry. Quakers who had never desecrated the Lord's Day before or since turned out under arms and drilled, according to some reports, even in the Meeting Houses. Muhlenberg's diary reports the incident of a whole crowd of boys in the street following a distinguished Quaker, crying out, "Look here, a Quaker with a musket on his shoulder," and adds, "The pious lambs in the long French, Spanish and Indian wars had such tender consciences that they would sooner die than raise a hand in defense against these enemies, now at once, like Zedekiah with iron horns, rushing upon a handful of our poor distressed and ruined fellow citizens of the frontiers."

Toward midnight Sunday an express arrived bringing an account of the approach of the Paxtang Boys and another report arrived at two o'clock. Bells were rung and drums beaten to summon the inhabitants, who turned out under arms to the number of 600 or more. It was expected that the "Raiders" would attempt to cross the ferries, and all boats at the middle and upper ferries were secured and brought to the City side and the ropes were removed. But no one thought to secure the ferry at Swede's Ford (Norristown), and it was here that the Paxtang Boys, completely oblivious of the consternation they had caused, proceeded to cross the Schuylkill. The river at the time was very high and could not have been crossed at any other nearby point without the aid of a ferry.

During the midst of the confusion a party of mounted men appeared at the upper end of 2d Street, and the cry was raised, "the Paxtang Boys are coming!" The peaceable Quakers primed their muskets and the artillerymen lighted their matches and were about to fire into this group when it developed that they were a party of butchers and porters who had organized to help with the defense of the City and were on their way to join the defenders. The quick wittedness of one bystander who put his hat over the touch hole of a cannon was all that saved a serious slaughter in this case.

Meanwhile couriers were coming in at intervals reporting the "enemy" to number 1000, later 500, then 1500, etc., so that all was in confusion.

The Paxtang Boys, mostly on horseback during this time, were peacefully continuing their march, and sent word ahead to Governor Penn of the hour they would arrive in Germantown. They were in command of Matthew Smith.

The Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor of the Lutheran congregation in Philadelphia, knowing that many of his Germans were in sympathy with the frontier settlers and realizing their problems, feared that some of the Germans might become embroiled in this trouble. Since he was too ill to go himself, he sent a visiting Lutheran clergyman, the Reverend Paul D. Bryzelius, to appeal to all Germans to refrain from any overt acts. He rode to Germantown, and, having encountered no Paxtangs, continued on to Chestnut Hill, where he met the body of about 100 men and accompanied them back to Germantown. The Rangers were astonished and amused at the account of the hostile reception prepared for them and told Bryzelius that they had no intention of harming anyone but had come to present their petition, which they had every right to do, in a perfectly peaceful way. They dismounted at an Inn and refused offers of refreshment, saying that they would pay for their own food and drink.

Several other clergymen of various denominations also came to Germantown to talk with the Paxtang Boys, and the next day Governor John Penn sent

(Continued on page 28)

A Wakefield Bride Comes To Germantown

By Frances Anne Wister

On A September day in 1826, the 26th to be exact, preparations were to progress for a wedding in one of Germantown's best-known houses. There had been gossip and excitement about this event for sometime; for it was unusual for a young lady who was brought up elsewhere to be married in Germantown; or for a young lady not to be married in either her father's house, or in a Friends' Meeting House. It was doubly remarkable, because her father was such an important member of Meeting as William Logan Fisher of Wakefield, Bristol Township, Philadelphia County.

The bride was Sarah Logan Fisher. The bridegroom William Wister was the son of John Wister of "Vernon". Why, the gossips asked, could this marriage not take place at Vernon, known for its spacious rooms and carved mantelpieces? Could a more beautiful setting for a wedding have been found? Perhaps "settings for weddings" were too mundane to have even been thought of in 1826; also it would have been the height of impropriety.

The gossips soon knew the answer, however. William Wister was not a member of Meeting! That precluded a wedding in Meeting. But why not, then, at Wakefield, the home of the bride? That thought was hastily abandoned because father interfered. No daughter of his who was committing the horrible mésalliance of marrying a "world's person", could be married in his house!

At that point, happily, the groom's uncle, Charles J. Wister, stepped into the picture and offered "Grumblethorpe". So there, under the circle in the ceiling of the northwest parlor, the young couple were wed by a Justice of the Peace. William Logan Fisher refused to attend.

What do we know about this daughter of Wakefield? What was the background that gave her determination to marry the man of her choice; and courage to go through with it no matter what lions were in the path?

That bride of Wakefield was of stalwart descent, to whom the prospect of being disowned by the Friends was a challenge. The Overseers had visited her and remonstrated violently, but to no avail. In May 1827 she was disowned by the Frankford Meeting. How came she by this determination? Was New Bedford, Massachusetts, where she was born, or Wakefield responsible?

The Fisher Family

Sarah Logan Fisher[1] inherited traits of character from a number of distinguished ancestors. Among them was Thomas Fisher, 2nd, who built Wakefield.

Her emigrating Fisher ancestor was the Quaker John Fisher of Yorkshire, England who came over with William Penn in the "Welcome", in 1682. Housing shortages are not new. John Fisher discovered that when he and his wife and two children were obliged to spend their first winter in one of the caves on the banks of the Delaware. The original owner of that cave was Dr. Thomas Wynne, also a passenger on the "Welcome", and an ancestor of the Wister family.

After John came Thomas, who soon entered public life and held various offices. Among these were representative in the General Assembly, Justice of the Peace, and Judge in several Courts.

Thomas's son Joshua became important in 1756 owing to his "Chart of ye Bay of Delaware with all ye Sounds and Bearings, and such full Directions yt Strangers to ye Navigation of ye Bay, may by ye help of your Draft, bring ships into the River without a Pilot."[2] This was the first such Chart, and remained the only one until the great Survey by the United States Government.

Joshua's house was at 110 South Front Street, and his country house was "The Cliffs", still standing in Fairmount Park. He became a prominent merchant, and the firm of Joshua Fisher & Sons inaugurated the first regular line of packet ships between Philadelphia and London. The firm suffered much for their Quaker principles during the Revolution. Their stores of goods and records were confiscated and the doors and windows of their warehouse were boarded up.

Sarah Logan Fisher's New England Background

The bride was descended also, through her mother, from William Rotch of New Bedford, and Nantucket, Massachusetts. He is considered by authorities to have been the greatest whaling owner of his century. He, like the Fishers, suffered for his Quaker principles. His whaling fleet was destroyed during the Revolution; and he was tried for high treason. His

[1] 1806–1891.

[2] Quotation from a letter from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

daughter married Samuel Rodman of New Bedford, and his granddaughter, Mary Rodman, became Mrs. William Logan Fisher of Wakefield.

Wakefield[3]

But to return to Wakefield and its owners, the mansion was built and occupied by Thomas Fisher, 2nd, son of Joshua and Sarah Rowland Fisher, about 1798. The land was a part of the original grant by William Penn to James Logan[4] of five hundred acres in Bristol Township, Philadelphia County, called by him "Stenton". Wakefield on the original property was on ground high above the East Branch of the Wingohocking Creek, and stretched to the Old York Road on the east across rolling fields, there being no streets at that time to mar the natural beauty of the place. The western boundary was about where 20th Street is now located, and the southern line touched the West Branch of the Wingohocking.

Thomas Fisher, 2nd (1741–1810) married Sarah Logan, granddaughter of James Logan in 1772. The bride, who was the daughter of William Logan and Hannah Emlen, drew this portion of Stenton by lot in 1781. They called the estate "Wakefield" after Wakefield, England, the native place of Margery Maud, grandmother of Thomas Fisher, 2nd. The Fisher city residence was on Second Street below the bridge (over Dock Creek) and near the Governor's mansion. Thomas Fisher was well-educated, and had travelled abroad. He became head of the firm of Joshua Fisher and Sons, occupied a prominent place in the city, and joined actively in the life of the time. He is described as a "handsome man of easy manners and very choice and elegant in his attire", who was "worthy of the respect and love which were bestowed upon him by his family and by the community." He was one of the "Exiles in Virginia" in 1777, in company with many other members of the Society of Friends, who suffered severely for their principles during the American Revolution. Through this period he remained a loyalist.

Sarah Logan, Mrs. Thomas Fisher, was a cultivated woman, who had made the most of her opportunities in her grandfather James Logan's library, at Stenton. Contrary to the custom of the Society of Friends, she dressed herself, and her children richly in the prevailing fashion.

During the yellow fever epidemic in 1797, Thomas and Sarah Fisher, with their five children, hastily took refuge at Wakefield, living during the building of the house, in the small cottage that still stands on the estate. Mrs. Thomas Fisher died in 1796, before the completion of the mansion.

[3]At 16th Street and Lindley Avenue.

[4]James Logan, who was of Scotch descent, was born at Lurgan, County Armagh, Ireland, in 1674. He was Secretary to William Penn and at various times held the positions of President of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania, Commissioner of Property, Receiver-General of the Province, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Mayor of Philadelphia. After his retirement from public office, he spent his declining years at Stenton, devoting himself to his estate and to his flower garden, as well as to reading, and scientific experiments, until his death in 1751.



Wakefield

William Logan Fisher (1781-1863)

After the death of Thomas Fisher, the property descended to his son, William Logan Fisher (1781–1862) who married first, Mary Rodman of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and second, Sarah Lindley of New Garden, Chester County, Pennsylvania. These two mistresses of Wakefield made it famous for hospitality. New England relatives, as well as members of the Society of Friends during their visitations, found a warm welcome within those doors. William Logan Fisher was an independent thinker, and a voluminous writer of books and tracts. He was a Charter Member of Frankford Monthly Meeting until 1827, when he joined the Hicksite Friends, and was disowned by the Orthodox Meeting. His portrait, a copy of the original owned by the Fox family, hangs at Wakefield.

Elizabeth Rodman Fisher (1810–1875) was the last member of the family bearing the Fisher name to live at Wakefield, William Logan Fisher having bequeathed the house and about forty acres to his unmarried daughter. She was "endowed with fine powers of mind, with a remarkable strength of character, and a kindliness and generosity of heart." She is still remembered as one who made the "beautiful ancestral home the centre of delightful hospitality, and of gentle charities." Miss Fisher was the virtual head of the family, and brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces turned to her for advice and help. Her death after a lingering illness left a void in the family circle which was never filled.

Wakefield then passed by purchase in 1876 to Mary Rodman Fisher, youngest daughter of William Logan Fisher, and wife of Samuel Fox. On her death in 1903 the property was inherited by her two surviving children, Hannah Fox and Joseph Mickle Fox. He and his family occupied the house from 1892 until his death in 1918.

Throughout the occupancy of the Fisher family, Wakefield was a place of beauty, and famous for the charm of the mansion and its grounds. Special features were its splendid forest trees, its garden and greenhouses, and charming "Sunnyside Farm", without which no country estate could maintain life.

In 1919 Wakefield, with a few of its remaining acres, was purchased by the City of Philadelphia,

and is now in the custody of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park.

Miss Hannah Fox's devotion to her family inspired her to establish a Trust Fund in 1927, "to assist in the upkeep of Wakefield for so long a time as such dwelling shall be occupied without rent for educational, civic or similar uses which are of public benefit." She died in 1933, happy in the thought that Wakefield, beloved homestead of the Fisher family, would be forever safe from despoiling hands.

In 1925 the Commissioners granted the use of Wakefield to Chapter II, Philadelphia, Colonial Dames of America. Now under the terms of the Hannah Fox Trust, and with the aid of the income derived therefrom, the Chapter assumes the care of the house which is used as headquarters for the Society.

The Bride

We have no means of knowing what the emotions of the bride were on that September day in 1826. During her girlhood, Wakefield was so remote that she was obliged to spend the school week in Germantown, returning home for Sundays only. So at the age of twenty it was still a long trip for her to make to reach Germantown on her wedding day. It was a longer trip to New Bedford by carriage, on the wedding journey. They were accompanied by the groom's sister, Miss Anne, of Vernon, and his cousin, Mary Ruschenberger. It was considered unsuitable for a young married couple to travel unchaperoned.

On their return William and Sarah Wister made their home at Belfield, Germantown, and she lived up to her ancestral heritage during a long life, as a charitable and hospitable member of the community, beloved by all.

Belfield was the scene of a golden wedding in 1876. It was also the scene of numberless hospitable gatherings which included many relatives and friends. Also the six Wister sons, and their wives and children, who were devoted to "Sarah Logan Wister, née Fisher," (as she always signed her name)—the Wakefield Bride who came to Germantown.

Frances Anne Wister was born in Germantown and is devoted to the place of her birth. She was a founder of the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in 1931. To this Soc. we owe the fact that the Powel House in Philadelphia is still standing and also "Grumblethorpe" in Germantown. Another old landmark which Miss Wister is active in preserving is "Upsala", where she is Chairman of the Trustees.

Recipient of the Gimbel Award 1936 and designated Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania 1949, her greatest work for our city has been in the Women's Committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra. Her 50 years as a member of that Committee was celebrated this spring. For 42 years she has been its president, and in June 1954 she will complete 49 years' service on the Orchestra Association's Board of Directors.

Miss Wister is a trustee of the First Unitarian Church of Phila., Vice-President of the Civic Club since 1907, except for 7 years when she was its president; and member of Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II Philadelphia, which has its headquarters at Wakefield.

She received the Chapter's Elise Willing Balch gold medal in 1933.

The Legend of the Thirteen Families

USUALLY stress has been laid upon the "thirteen Crefeld families" as founders of Germantown. The legend of the thirteen families takes no account of Pastorius, the leader of the community, and the group of perhaps a dozen persons who came with him, all of whom joined in the founding of Germantown.

The understanding that there were thirteen Crefeld families comes from the fact that on the ship's list of the Concord, on which they came to America, thirteen "heads of families" were named. But all these "heads of families" were not married men. Unmarried male adults were set down as "heads of families."

From the fact that thirty-three "freights" were registered for the group, it has been assumed that there were thirty-three persons in the Crefeld party. However, children under the age of 12 years were counted as a half "freight," and infants less than one year old were not counted at all. So it is certain there were more than thirty-three persons.

The monument, which the German-American Alliance erected in Vernon Park, Germantown, with the help of an appropriation from Congress, bears names of the thirteen "heads of families" from Crefeld, and also that of Pastorius, but no mention is made of the settlers who came with Pastorius and landed on August 20.

One distinction may be made between the two groups of pioneers which perhaps has helped to concentrate the glory of their united achievement upon the heads of the Crefelders. Pastorius and his group had been engaged by the Frankford land purchasers, and therefore came to Pennsylvania as employees of those purchasers, usually called the Frankford Company. The Crefelders came upon their own initiative to found a new settlement.

THE MUSICAL FUND SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

From an address delivered, before the City History Society of Philadelphia, at the Atwater Kent Museumon the evening of February 16, 1954.

The Oldest Musical Society in America still in Existence

By George E. Nitzsche

Dr. Nitzsche has been a member of the Musical Fund Society since 1925 and one of its directors for many years.

On Founders Day, January sixteenth, nineteen fifty four, he was given an Award of Merit, by the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, in exercises taking place in Houston Hall, for his devoted and diligent service to the University, having advanced her name and cause for many years. Founder and long time editor (16 years, he states) of "Old Penn", now the' 'Pennsylvania Gazette, by which he established for the first time a bond of communication between the Alumni and their Alma Mater. In countless ways Dr. Nitzsche's knowledge of Pennsylvania's background and needs has pointed out the solution of her many problems.

THE Musical Fund Society, now in its 134th year, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Musical Society in America, having been active continuously since 1820, and still going strong on a firm foundation. While there were a number of musical organizations in Philadelphia before 1820, none survived except the Musical Fund. The Uranian Singing Society antedated it by 33 years and this was followed by at least ten others, but not any survived more than a decade.

Just a year after the Musical Fund Society was organized, the Germantown Harmonic Society came into existence (in 1821), and was quite active for some time, gave a number of successful concerts, but disbanded in a few years. The late Dr. Phillip Goepp, who, almost sixty years ago, edited the manuscript of Mr. Louis C. Madeira's on "Early Music in Philadelphia and the Musical Fund Society," stated that the scope and sphere of Philadelphia musicians and early musical life in the city was of the same cast as was the high atmosphere of the Utopians at Concord, and that we in Philadelphia have a right to have the same sort of pride in the achievements of our early musicians and music lovers as Massachusetts had in her Transcendentalists. "The works introduced by Hupfeld and Carr of Philadelphia," says Goepp, "were the same to which to-day we turn with deepest reverence, but in those days they were not hallowed by the consecration of a century's increasing appreciation. Then it needed genuine courage of conviction and genuine musical perception, to play them." I love to quote my old friend Goepp, with whom I was associated, as Chairman of the Music Committee of the First Unitarian Church, where he was Choir Master and Musical Director for many years. He was a remarkable character; although trained as a lawyer by profession he was a thorough musician, and devoted his entire adult life to music. Even in Philadelphia, Dr. Goepp maintained, there was not much musical entertainment before the Revolution. The Quakers advised their adherents against "going to, or being in any way concerned with plays, games, lotteries, music and dancing." I was born and brought up at Nazareth, Pa., a Moravian Community dating back to 1740. Contrary to the New England and other emigrants, the Moravians brought with them their music, their musical instruments, and their musical talents. Even in their earliest years they had their religious services accompanied by trained choirs and musical instruments. Some of the members manufactured musical instruments. Dr. Cornelius Weygandt, the eminent author and English scholar, tells me that he inherited his love of music from his Moravian ancestors. His grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Weygandt, played the flute with the Moravians and became a manufacturer of wood wind instruments. He came to Philadelphia from Northampton County in 1820, the same year the Musical Fund was organized, and manufactured on 2nd Street, and also on 8th Street, flutes of various hardwoods and also some of silver. Dr. Weygandt showed me a collection of these. He said the late American Shakespearean actor, Southern, used one of these flutes in a play; and that the flute is now in the Furness Library of the University.

(*Continued on page 13*)



Musical Fund Hall in 1856

ANNUAL HISTORIC TOUR

These beautiful examples of colonial architecture in Germantown are open to visitors on this one day of the year. Included in the tour are many old activities and loan exhibits as described. Many hostesses at the colonial houses are to be in colonial costume.

Sunday
May
from 1:0(



OTTINGER HOUSE MEHL HOUSE

The **Mehl House**, 4817 Germantown Ave., now occupied by Mrs. John R. Minehart, was built in 1744 by the Mehl family. Some soldiers killed in the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, were buried on the property. An underground tunnel from the basement, recently closed up, was supposed to have existed at the time of the Revolution. The barn which is also open for the tour is about the same age as the house. The house continued in the Mehl family until shortly before the Minehart family acquired it 43 years ago.

The **Ottinger House**, 4825 Germantown Ave., now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Theodore G. Alteneder, was built in 1781 by Christopher Ottinger who surely built well, as the walls are two feet thick. Even the first floor partitions are of stone. Ottinger as a young man was a Pennsylvania soldier. The Ottinger family continued to live in the house until shortly before it was purchased 15 years ago to save it from destruction.

On the day of the tour, Mrs. Victor R. Bieber, is presenting a loan collection of old pewter shown in this house.

The **Germantown Historical Society Museum**, 5214 Germantown Ave., holds many fascinating relics of Germantown's interesting past. This house was built in 1772 by William Forbes. By the time of the Battle of Germantown it was occupied by David H. Conyngham. The house was then a point on the British reserve line and during the British occupation of Germantown, British officers lived in the house. The Hacker family occupied the house after 1844 and descendants of the Hacker family presented it in 1927 to the Society.



UPSALA

TICKETS

Tickets, at $1.50 each, may be purchased at any one of the eleven houses—or mail your check to Germantown Community Council, Vernon Park, Philadelphia 44, and tickets will be mailed promptly. Each ticket good for eleven visits and usable by more than one person.

Grumblethorpe, 5267 Germantown Ave., originally known as "John Wister's Big House," was built by John Wister in 1744 as a summer home. The stone for its building was quarried on the place and the joists were cut from oaks in Wister's Woods, now Wister's Woods Park. The garden was famous for unusual trees and shrubs and it continues to hold its charm today. It was the home of Sally Wister of the famous "Journal." At the time of the Battle of Germantown, the house was occupied by General Agnew who was wounded and brought back to this house to die. Today the house is owned by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks under the leadership of Miss Frances A. Wister.

Grumblethorpe will show two old time activities—quilting under direction of Mrs. M. Bacon Bostwick on a quilting frame belonging to the house and hooked rug making under direction of Mrs. Elmer M. Buckey.



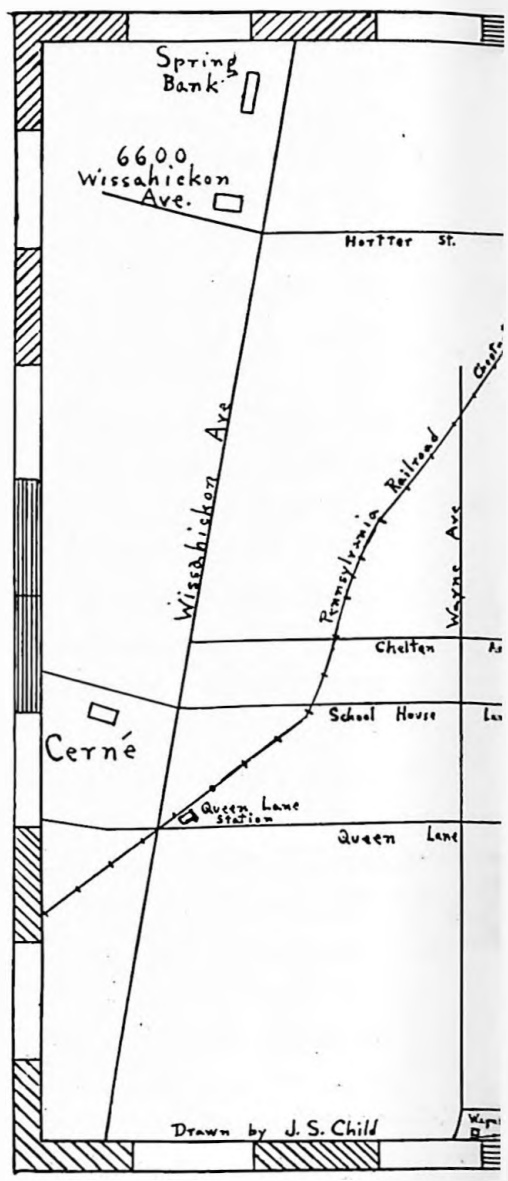
GRUMBLETHORPE

The **Morris House**, 5442 Germantown Ave., was built in 1772. During the Battle of Germantown the British General Howe moved from Stenton and made his headquarters here. When in 1793 and 1794 a plague of yellow fever came to Philadelphia this beautiful country house was rented by President Washington. His cabinet members including Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton moved to houses nearby. Four important cabinet meetings were held here. The house through inheritance has been held by the Perot and Morris families since 1804 until the last owner and his sons presented it in 1948 to the United States Government as a National Shrine.

Upsala, 6430 Germantown Ave., was completed in 1798 by John Johnson, 3rd, grandson of the John Johnson, builder of the older Johnson House. It was one of the most magnificent houses of its time and was three years in building. Today it is considered one of the finest examples of colonial Georgian architecture. It was occupied by the Johnson family until shortly before 1943 when the house was already in process of demolition. At that moment the Upsala Foundation was formed by interested people to raise funds to buy the house. This foundation is now restoring it to its original charm. Connected to the back of the house is a small house built as a farm house nearly seventy years earlier than the main house. This farm house was in existence at the time of the Battle of Germantown when cannon, trained by the Americans on the Chew House opposite, were placed on the lawn.

Upsala is featuring for the tour several unusual loan exhibits presented by their collectors—etchings arranged by Edward Warwick, former director of the Philadelphia Museum School of Art; snuff boxes from the collection of Mrs. George C. Corson of Plymouth Meeting; antique silver arranged by Robert Stuart and old drawings arranged by Mrs. Henry S. Ritter.

Women's Clubs and Special Groups are being invited to plan an enjoyable afternoon with this historic tour. For information on arrangements, please contact committee member, Mrs. Charles C. Heyl, 621 W. Ellet Street, Phila. 19, Pa.



BUS TRAN

The first bus leaves P. M. Each bus will ret times during afternoon cover nearly all houses ceremonies will be Jud bus and Dr. Richard W.

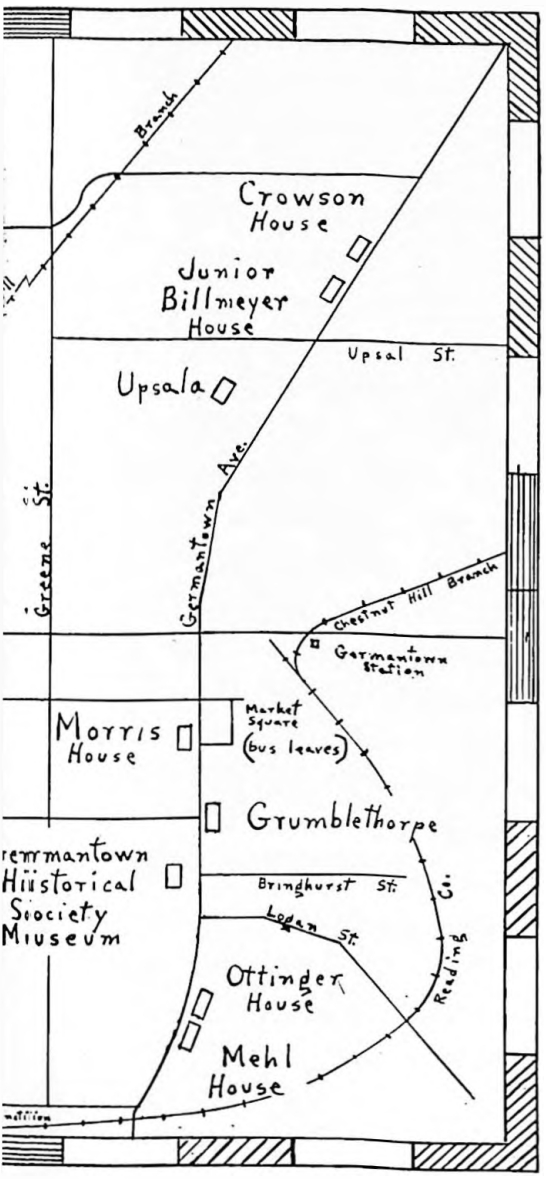
For those who wis bus, please send nam fore May 13 to Dr. R town Academy, Phil able to Germantown

Free parking in re Fund at Market Sq

OF OLD GERMANTOWN

afternoon
6' 1954
·16:00 PM

In contrast to the colonial homes, three of Germantown's most interesting examples of Victorian and later architecture are included on the tour. All three of these houses are located along or close to Wissahickon Ave.



The **Junior Billmeyer House**, 6504 Germantown Ave., a beautiful example of a more formal Georgian colonial architecture, is now occupied by Mr. Norman B. Mathieu, the decorator, and his wife. There is a lovely panelled stairway and several beautifully carved mantels. The house was built shortly before 1800 by Michael Billmeyer, Germantown's second printer, who lived directly opposite. He built it for his oldest son who had just been married. Unfortunately, before he could bring his bride to the new home, he tragically died. The story is told that whenever a bride comes to the house his footsteps may be clearly heard mounting the stairs.



JUNIOR BILLMEYER HOUSE



CROWSON HOUSE

The **Crowson House**, 6514 Germantown Ave., n occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Elkinton, is a fin example of an old Germantown farm house. It stands behind a stone wall with a postern gate and has a pent roof sheltering its single doorway. The house was built in two sections, the oldest part about 1750.

Especially featured for the tour at this house is a hand loom on which Mrs. Edward W. Smith will illustrate this ancient art. Also, Mrs. Marguerita C. Phillips will demonstrate on her authentic old spinning wheel an almost forgotten craft.

Cerne, on School House Lane west of the corner of Wissahickon Ave., is one of the few homes which still holds the clinging aroma of a time of gracious living. It was built in the middle 1800's for Moses Brown, Jr., by his father and was copied from an old English rectory. The name Cerné was the original name of the former French island, later renamed Mauritius, which was the birthplace of Mrs. Brown. Mr. Richard S. Mason purchased and occupied the house with his wife and young children in 1878. His two daughters, Miss Mary and Miss Jane Mason continue the tradition of charming hospitality. There was an interesting account of the 75th anniversary party at this house in an issue of Life magazine last fall. The interior is delightfully Victorian. Most of the furniture was originally placed in the house 75 years ago.



CERNE

6600 Wissahickon Ave. is occupied by the Joseph Wasserman family. Planned on a colonial style by the well known architect, Horace Trumbauer, the house was built for Mr. Wasserman in 1909. Through their extensive travel, members of the Wasserman family have accumulated beautiful examples of old English and Italian furniture, Dutch and German oils and oriental figures.



SPRING BANK

Spring Bank, 6700 Wissahickon Ave., is located on land purchased from William Rittenhouse. A small part of the center of the house is believed to have been built about 1738. It remained as a small farm house until purchased in the middle 1800's by Edward Lowber, an ancestor of the present occupants. Mr. Lowber and later his son-in-law, John Welsh, built the present additions around the original building. Mr. Welsh was United States Minister to the Court of St. James and was Treasurer of the Centennial Exhibition in 1876. His portrait hangs in the house and several interesting articles brought back from England belonging to him are there. The unusual construction of the house on a slope makes it a well recognized landmark in Germantown. The present occupants, Mr. and Mrs. J. Somers Smith, Jr., are the fifth generation of the same family in the house.

PORTATION

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HISTORIC TOUR COMMITTEE
of Germantown Historical Society

JOHN S. CHILD, *Chairman*
MISS FRANCES M. CAMPBELL
MRS. CHARLES C. HEYL
MRS. NORMAN MELLOR
MRS. JOHN G. MILLER
MRS. J. B. VAN SCIVER, JR.
MRS. HENRY F. WIREMAN
DR. RICHARD W. DAY
MR. JOHN MCARTHUR HARRIS, JR.

This event, conducted by the Germantown Historical Society, occurs on the last day of eventful Germantown Week sponsored by the Germantown Community Council.

Net proceeds of this tour are presented half and half to the Germantown Community Council and the Germantown Historical Society.



Music Sheet cover depicts Town Hall in Germantown

(Continued from page 13)

As a boy in Nazareth, one of my ambitions was to become a "Band-Boo", as they called the members of the local Brass Band, or to become one of the trombone players of the Church, but my wishes could not be gratified because of lack of funds. When we moved to Philadelphia I saved my pennies and acquired a violin. My teacher was a choir master and orchestra leader of a local church. He gave me free instruction, but required me to play second violin in his orchestra. One Sunday, while we were giving a rendition of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from the "Messiah" my bow slipped. My teacher gave me a terrific scolding. I never again ventured to inflict my musical talent upon the public.

To get back to the Musical Fund Society: as Dr. Goepp maintained, with the possible exception of some of the larger communities, there was comparatively little good musical entertainment in the early years of America, and few organs. Old Swede's, I understand, claims to have had the first church organ in America, which was probably in the early 1700s; Kelpius, head of the "Monks of the Wissahickon," in Germantown, was reputed to have ordered, from Germany in 1708, two musical instruments—the forerunners of the piano, but there seems to be no record of their having arrived. Kelpius died in the same year. The first piano in America was made in 1775 by John Behrent, of Philadelphia. Christ's Church and St. Peter's and a few others had organs in the second half of the 18th Century. However, Grotavus Hesselius, of Philadelphia, built the first American pipe organ in 1746 for the Bethlehem Moravian Church.

A number of talented musicians like Benjamin Carr, Francis Hopkinson, Benjamin Cross, Thomas Loud, Raynor Taylor, Alexander Reinagle, Charles P. Hupfeld and others interested in producing good music in Philadelphia at the time were also instrumental in the founding of the Musical Fund Society. To a lesser extent there may have been similar efforts in a few other communities. However most of the churches in those early years were without organs and had little music before the Revolution except congregational singing. And some, as I said before, discouraged music because it was considered "Worldly." It was many years before some churches got over the prejudice against music and introduced organs and trained choirs into their sacred exercises. Dr. Goepp cites an incident of an early churchman advocating some harmonic instrument in his church, which met with terrific opposition of the minister and a few members, whereupon one of the more liberal members ventured to improve upon the lines of the minister's reading of the 92nd Psalm, which goes, "Oh, let my heart in tune be found, like David's Harp of solemn sound" and suggested that it be changed to "Oh, may my heart be tuned within like David's sacred violin"; and another member, with levity, suggested "Oh, may my heart go Diddle-Diddle like Uncle David's sacred fiddle."

Contrary to some of the more conservative churchmen of the time the Moravians attempted to introduce higher standards of music, and often succeeded, utilizing violins, violas, bass viols, harps, and various brasses such as the trombones, trumpets and various woodwinds. President Adams of the United States, although a Unitarian, attended a variety of church services and found the emotional singing of the Methodists impressive, enjoyed the chanting at Catholic services as "soft and sweet", and described it as "the finest music I have heard in any society except among the Moravians, and once in a church, with an organ." To again illustrate the opposition to music in those early days, Dr. Goepp cites another incident in a church where an organ had just been installed. When the minister had been asked to lead the congregation in prayer, after a selection by the choir accompanied by the new organ, he cried out, "Call on the machine; if it can play and sing to the glory of God, it can pray to the glory of God; Call on the machine!"

Enough of this; let us be thankful that we now have good music in almost all churches, and that His Satanic Majesty no longer has a monopoly on its production.

The men who brought the Musical Fund Society into existence were not only active in the musical affairs of the city, but among them were some of the ablest and most eminent Philadelphians—some were professional musicians and others talented amateurs.

While the Society came into being in 1820, years before a number of men interested in music had gathered in one another's houses for the purpose of playing together, and to discuss ways and means of how to promote the art of music. In this early group were Benjamin Carr, Dr. William P. DeWees, Dr. Robert M. Patterson, John K. Kane, Leonard Koecker, Peter DuPonceau, Charles A. Poulson, Benjamin Cross, Charles E. Hupfeld, who acted as one of the conductors, John Hupfeld, who played the violin and the viola for the group, George Schetky and P. Gilles, cellos; and among the violinists were John C. Homann, his two sons, John and Charles, and a Dr. Reno LaRoche. Thomas Sully played the flute. As early as 1816, Charles Hupfeld tried to organize this group for regular practice, and for a while they met faithfully at the studio of Thomas Sully, the famous portrait painter, at 5th and Chestnut Sts. However, it was not until the group decided to augment the objects of their gatherings by starting a fund for the relief of what they termed as "decayed musicians," that the Society took definite form. Therefore, on January 7, 1820, at Elliott's Hotel, at 6th and Chestnut Streets, it was definitely decided to organize the Musical Fund Society, the founders being Messrs. Carr, Schetky, the two Hupfelds, Kane, Poulson, Patterson, Loud, Joseph Fischer and Dr. William P. DeWees, who presided, while John K. Kane acted as Secretary. A membership Committee was chosen, and a Committee to draw up a constitution.

On the 29th of February, 1820 another meeting was held and Dr. DeWees was elected President; Dr. Patterson, Vice President; Daniel Lammot, Treasurer; and John K. Kane, Secretary. The managers and directors elected at the same meeting were all distinguished Philadelphians, viz.: William Strickland, Francis G. Smith, James W. Barker, Thomas Artley, Henry P. Arrekens, William Hawkins, Charles A. Poulson, George Schetky, Benjamin Say, Benjamin Carr, Thomas Sully, Andrew Farrouihl, Benjamin Cross, M. E. Branan, Charles Hupfeld, I. T. David, R. Gilles, Raynor Taylor, I. Nicholas and J. LeFolle. At this same meeting eighty-five members were elected.

The Society was incorporated on February 22, 1823, the objects recited in the charter being "the cultivation of skill and diffusion of taste in music and the relief of decayed musicians and their families."

The Society immediately set itself to accumulate a fund for the relief of "decayed Musicians," but the principal motive seems to have been the advancement of music to its highest stages, and to present to the public the best sacred and secular music—far beyond any music then given by any musical organization. As Mr. Madeira suggests, the infant society was probably stimulated by an old verse, "Music, like mercy, is twice blessed—it blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

During its early years, the Society met at several places, and for some time in historic Carpenter's Hall. The first concert was given on May 24, 1821, at Washington Hall, 3rd and Spruce. It was so successful that it was repeated a little later the same year. It was a long program and the numbers were conducted by Carr, Gilles, Hupfeld, Loud and Shetky. The orchestra and vocalists constituted a group of more than a hundred performers. In the orchestra were violins, violas, cellos, tenors, double basses, flutes, bassoons and a trombone from Bethlehem. The conductors of the vocalists were accompanied by an organ.

With all the progress in music made by this early society there still seems to have been an old prejudice against male professional musicians and their morals. However, the managers of the Society already had taken precautions to protect female lovers of music so that they could not be admitted "without a written certificate from some lady of established standing and character in this city." Whether this precaution had ever to be evoked, I have been unable to verify. It is interesting to note that gas lighting was still experimental, since there was a bill for $16.63 for candles approved in the spring of 1820; although, I presume, it was not long before kerosene was used in all of their early concerts.

When the Society was giving Haydn's Oratorio, "The Creation," for the third time in 1824 there seems to have been some difficulty in getting an auditorium. Finally St. Stephen's Church offered its facilities to the Society for its presentation. At this time, the managers also conferred with the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, proposing the building of a hall that might be used jointly, but it met with no cooperation. Thus the University probably lost the opportunity of establishing a school of music generations before the late Hugh Clarke founded the present School of Music at the University in 1877.

Shortly after the concert at St. Stephen's church the Society decided to borrow enough money to purchase the Fifth Presbyterian Church on the South side of Locust near Eighth St for $7,500 and make the necessary alterations and additions. This resulted in the creation of the world famous Musical Fund Hall. This was in May, 1824, and by December 24 of the same year the Hall was ready for use, and the Society gave its first concert in it on December 29, 1824. Its total cost was almost $24,000. A local paper described the opening night as being "graced by a brilliant audience of 500 men and 800 ladies, including a great portion of the fashion, beauty and taste of our city." The Hall was described as being 106 feet long, 60 feet wide and 26 feet high, and that "experts declared that for the conveyance of sound it is superior to any in Europe or anywhere else." The plans and design were by the

(Continued on page 23)

CENTENARY

The Germantown Savings Fund Society

By P. M. Allen

A CENTURY ago this month, a tiny seed was planted in Germantown by a little group headed by Samuel Morris, of "Morris House". In a small vacant room, second floor back of the Mutual Fire building, then at Main and Armat streets, there was little ceremony about the planting. A former bedroom door was opened at 3 P. M. on the afternoon of May 24th, 1854. By the time it closed, the Germantown Saving Fund had completed its first day's business with sixteen deposits and $629.17 in the till. Of this, more than half was made up by "guarantee deposits" of the founders.



Saml. B. Morris.

The purpose of the organization was purely altruistic. There were no stockholders to profit from the public's savings, and all gains were to accrue to the savers themselves, either as interest or as addition to reserves to assure necessary stability. To this day, these ideals endure, unchanged.

It seems fair to assume that few who observed this lowly start in the little township even suspected that it would result in such phenomenal development, arrested only temporarily by cycles of wars and panics. The Society's centenary shows more than a hundred and one million dollars in deposits and more than 84,500 depositors, and continued acceleration of growth.

Germantown may well be proud of this mutual savings bank. It has long been both a source of and a vehicle for prosperity for the entire area centering upon the ancient village, and for the thousands of savers individually for whom it has been an instrument of better living. It has helped families finance homes and educations for their children; helped ambitious young men and women set themselves up in business. Its popularity is still increasing and its helpfulness continues to spread to fourth and fifth generations as branches are established to follow them to suburban peripheries.

Beginnings

No one could have foreseen the difficulties ahead when the philanthropic founders launched the institution that long-ago May day. Times were prosperous, but when the Society was but a scant three years old, panic shook the nation. More than half of Philadelphia's insurance companies were insolvent. Tremendous failures marked the debacle. Paper money became unacceptable and coin unobtainable. Banks suffered heavy runs and many were unable to meet demands for "hard money." The Germantown Saving Fund remained open, meeting every demand promptly. The famous Panic of '57 did not end until February of the following year, when the city's banks resumed specie payment, but the financial structure of Philadelphia had been thoroughly "shaken out."

Before Germantown Saving Fund reached its seventh birthday, the War of the Rebellion imperiled our very national survival. Four years of bloodshed, fraught with the gravest threats and potentials, testing, "whether that nation could long endure." The history of these days is familiar, but the concomitant economic troubles involved are not remembered today.

Early in the '60s many city banks refused to receive deposits if they could avoid it, and there was a great scramble to reduce interest rates which at the time were quite high, contrasted to today's.

The country groaned under tremendous stresses and strains. The financing of the titanic conflict all but destroyed money value. Toward the end, confidence in the currency evaporated fast. Many securities held by the Saving Fund became "scraps of paper." Due to the scarcity of money and the demand for it, deposits dropped steadily. Before the Battle of Gettysburg many Philadelphia banks destroyed their plates for engraving notes to prevent seizure by the "Rebels" and sent their gold and silver to New York in anticipation of the Confederate capture of the city.

Considering the parlous days of its first decade, the wonder is that the Germantown institution endured at all. With less than $40,000 deposits when the Panic of '57 struck so suddenly, and with considerably below $90,000 to face the impact of the fateful years of '61–'65, it must have taken what the British would call "a bit of doing." (Contrast these total deposit figures with the INTEREST–$2,060,402.92–collected last year alone by its savers!)

A little Centenary booklet on our Saving Fund reflects many interesting and amusing facets of the early years and the minutia of the ancient minutes of the board of managers. The latter, themselves,

are not without historic Germantown significance, taking in many surnames now familiar to today's generations only as street designations. These include:

George W. Carpenter	Tho's. Megarge
Abr'm Martin	Charles Spencer
Henry G. Fricke	John S. Haines
Philip R. Freas	Andw. Martin
Jos. R. Lambdin	Jos. Handsberry (sic.)
Robert Smith	Spencer Roberts
Lloyd Mifflin	F. W. Bockius

Jos. G. Mitchell

If not the oldest to endure as a purely Germantown institution, our Germantown Saving Fund is certainly the largest ever to blossom in our community. To our Historical Society that measures time from the 1600s, a century isn't very long. But a hundred years of continuous service to our neighbors, and a hundred million dollars in deposits, is certainly not "hay," and not to be sneezed at with any hay fever.

OWEN LEWIS

The Germantown Historical Society has been saddened by the death of Owen Batchelder Lewis, fellow member and treasurer of the Morris House.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, he served the city of his adoption, Philadelphia, for 23 years as Real Estate Assessor for the Board of Revision of Taxes. He also served as one of the two Auditors of the Corporate Trustees for the Board of Common Pleas Judges.

He was a former president of the Church Club of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and Vestryman and Rector's Warden of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Oak Road, Germantown.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife, the former Frances Washington, their daughter Betty Washington Lewis, and several sisters and brothers, among the latter is Judge Edwin O. Lewis; a nephew, Hugh D. Scott is Congressman from this district.

HARROLD GILLINGHAM

THE END of a long and useful life comes always on a note of triumph and this is, perhaps, peculiarly true in the passing of Harrold Gillingham.

Mr. Gillingham had such an amazing number of interests, was a specialist in so many fields of knowledge and yet his approach was always simple and his helpfulness ready and with interest.

A specialist on Marine Insurance, and past president of the Mine Hill & Schuylkill Haven R. R., he yet had an absorbing interest in things historical and a love and knowledge of crafts. He was Hon. president of the Welcome Society, past treasurer of the Pennsylvania Society, of the Sons of the Revolution, and the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania and member or director of many other historical organizations, yet he wrote articles on such widely differing subjects as silversmithing, shipbuilding, brickmaking and early fire defenses.

His interest was quickly roused by the avocations of others and he shared gladly his own specialized knowledge.

Mr. Gillingham was, for years, a member of the Germantown Historical Society and, in its earlier days, gave much of help and counsel. The Society is richer in many ways for his friendship.



Germantown Historical Society Museum was occupied by David Hayfield Conynham at the time of the Revolution. It marks the lower end of the British Army encampment at Germantown

EARLY MORAVIAN SCHOOLS OF GERMANTOWN

Brief History of the Moravian Church

By Dr. Mabel Haller

Mabel Haller was born and educated in Philadelphia and graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1929, B.S. in Education; 1934, M.A. in Germanics; 1951, Ph.D. in Education.

Her doctoral thesis, "Early Moravian Education in Pennsylvania" (409 pages), was published by the Moravian Historical Society, Nazareth, Pa.

Dr. Haller has taught in the Philadelphia secondary schools since 1931. At present she is Director of Student Activities at the West Philadelphia High School.

THE oldest Protestant church in the world was organized under the name *Unitas Fratrum*, The Unity of the Brethren, in 1457, when some of the Moravian and Bohemian followers of John Hus found solace from persecution in the valley of Kunwald, about a hundred miles east of Prague, in the confines of Silesia and Moravia. In spite of the persecutions of 1461, of 1468, and of 1508, all of which were aimed to put the Unity out of existence, by the eve of the Lutheran Reformation there were in Moravia and Bohemia some 400 congregations with 200,000 members, using their own hymn book and catechism, proclaiming their doctrines in a confession of faith, employing two printing presses, and scattering Bohemian Bibles broadcast throughout the land. By 1547 the *Unitas Fratrum* had spread into Poland.

War, persecution, martyrdom and banishment between 1656 and 1722 temporarily crushed the organization and scattered its reduced membership. Only a "hidden seed," a kind of divinely inspired underground movement, remained. On June 17, 1722, a band of Moravian exiles was given asylum on the baronial estate of the pious Nicolaus Ludwig, Count von Zinzendorf, at Herrnhut in Saxony. He became the leading bishop of the resuscitated church, devoting all his property and energy to its work. The Count's plan was to establish on the continent of Europe, in Great Britain, and in America, exclusively Moravian settlements, from which the temptations of the world might be shut out, and in which the highest form of spiritual life could be fostered. In the new world he envisioned opportunities for the missionary, the evangelist, and the teacher; and especially in Pennsylvania, where many and varied religious sects had settled, he hoped to realize a "Congregation of God in the Spirit," his earnest effort to unite all the various German settlers into one religious organization, in which ". . . the several churches and sects, without giving up their creedal differences, might live and labor together in a higher unity of the Spirit."

After a brief stay in Georgia, the Brethren came to Pennsylvania where they founded the exclusive church settlements of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Lititz; established town and country congregations in that part out of which eleven counties—Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and York—were subsequently carved; and posted numerous missions for the evangelization and education of the American Indians.

Between 1742 and 1752, when educational facilities were very meager among the colonists of Pennsylvania, the Moravians established at least eighteen country congregational schools, not only for their own youth, but also for the sons and daughters of English and Scotch-Irish settlers, and for the children of German parents outside the Moravian communion. Two of these schools were located in Germantown.

The First Moravian School in Germantown

For the benefit of the children of all German parents residing in the country, who would like to have them better taken care of without neglect to their household, it is hereby proposed to make a simple and heartfelt appeal on the following 6th—old style; the 17th according to the Gregorian calendar of April, 1742, in the afternoon at one o'clock. In furtherance of which the fathers and mothers in all townships who are concerned about the welfare of their children, are asked to present themselves at the appointed hour at Bechtel's or potter Lehman's house in Germantown. Those who cannot be there in person should express their opinion through someone else.

This circular, printed in German, was issued on April 3, 1742 by John Bechtel, a Reformed pastor who later became attached to the Moravian Church.

The project of organizing a school in Germantown on the "model of the Brethren's school in Germany" had been discussed and approved at the fourth conference called by Count Zinzendorf and held in the home of John Ashmead on Market Square. A few persons from the immediate environs came in response to the Count's invitation, but none from the outlying districts, except such as were members of the fifth Synod which was to convene on the following day. General indifference to school matters, poverty too great to supply suitable clothing for the children, lack of time, poor means of travel, and a distrust for the *Herrnhures* worked together among the country folk as impediments to this greatly needed educational effort. Christopher Saur, who had printed the German circular, ridiculed the enthusiastic Zinzendorf for "wanting 100 children to attend his proposed schools when there were only 40 in all of Philadelphia and Germantown."

Notwithstanding, a school was opened on May 4, 1742 in the Ashmead house, located at what is now 5454 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, with twenty-five girls in attendance. In the small group that had accompanied Zinzendorf from his baronial estate in Herrnhut to his colonial venture in Pennsylvania in December of 1741, was his sixteen-year-old daughter, Benigna. She became the teacher of the school, and was assisted by two women—Magdalena Müller and Anna Desmond, and three men—Anton Seiffert, John William Zander and George Neisser. This was the actual beginning of the educational work of the Moravian Church in Pennsylvania, and the start of the long, continuous, rather checkered career of the institution which was probably the second church boarding-school for girls to be established in the United States, the Ursuline nuns at New Orleans having founded the first in 1727.

In less than two months, on June 28th, the school was transferred from Germantown to the west half of the yet unfinished Bethlehem *Gemeinhaus*, the typical Moravian building used variously as a home and hospice, manse and church, administrative office, school, dispensary and town hall. Local circumstances in Bethlehem made it difficult to continue the little boarding schcol for girls during the ensuing autumn and winter; and on August 20th, the girls who lived in Germantown were returned to their homes. Some of the single sisters (the teachers) seem to have gone to Germantown to continue their school work, presumably in the Ashmead house, although that is uncertain. On July 3, 1743, they returned to Bethlehem to await the completion of the new addition to the *Gemeinhaus*, in the east wing of which the school was re-opened on October 19th of the same year.

The Second Moravian School in Germantown

On January 13, 1746, eight residents of Germantown—John Peter Müller, Engelbert Lock, Jean de Dier, Peter Hoffman, Anthony Gilbert, Cornelius Weygandt, Marcus Münzer and Hans Gerster—in behalf of themselves and others, went to Bethlehem with a petition again to have a boarding school opened in their town. The Reverend John Bechtel who, through the Reverend John Philip Boehm's efforts had been thrust out of the charge at the Market Square Reformed Church which he had served gratuitously for many years, intending to remove to Bethlehem, offered the use of his Germantown house (at what is now 5226 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia) for the proposed school. The project was submitted to a synod at Philadelphia in April, when a local committee of ten was appointed to carry it out. The school was opened on September 24, 1746, as a boarding school and day school for both sexes.

Six boys and girls from the Moravian schools at Frederickstown (near Falkner Swamp in Montgomery County) and at Nazareth (in Northampton County) were sent to Germantown "as a trained nucleus," to whom other children were then added "one by one, so that all the untrained children might not come together all at once." One of the children, speaking for the group that had been transferred from Nazareth, told his classmates in Germantown that they were much more fortunate than Jesus had been, because "after their long trip from Nazareth they again found a fine home in the Germantown school, while our blessed Lord found nowhere to lay His head."

After the initial group of boarding pupils was established, Brother Augustus Gottlieb Spangenberg and Adolph Meyer came from Bethlehem "to consult with those parents who wished to send their children to the day-school department of the Germantown school." A month later "the day pupils were cultivating fine taste for religious songs, and enjoyed so much listening to the boarding pupils sing them." By April of 1747 there were fifty children in attendance, more than half of whom were boarders, including two Mohegan Indian girls. Three of the Philadelphia boys were Benjamin Croker, the nephew of Benjamin Franklin; Nathaniel Evans who later became a clergyman in the Anglican church, and Lazarus Stow, subsequently an officer in the Continental service during the Revolution.

At an "exceedingly happy lovefeast," it was made known to them that "Mary Rosin was their eldress; Betsy Horsfield their supervisor; Martha, the Indian, their stewardess, and Sally Price, their helper. Other supervisors and instructors associated with the school during its existence of less than three years were Jasper and Elizabeth Payne, John and Rosina Michler, John and Mary Schaub, James and Elizabeth Greening, John and Susanna Levering, John Leinbach, John Christopher Heyne, Peter Schner, John Turner, Anna Marie Boerstler, Judith Nickel and Molly Waters."

One of the most faithful patrons of the school was the widow of Michael Leibert, Barbara Leibert,

whose son was boarded and educated there from November 13, 1746 to May 6, 1749. She must have kept a store in Philadelphia, since the Germantown School Account Book, 21 shows that she bought much vinegar and many brooms from the school's Economy, and paid her son's tuition fees in merchandise. The following are extracts from the school's ledgers:

Sister Barbara Leibert in Philadelphia.
Her son Martin came to board with us,
November 14, 1746, at 6 £ per year.
One Dutch Spelling book 9 sh.
Board and schooling for her
son Martin from November 13, 1746
to May 3, 1747, 6 mos. 3 £
6 Barrels Vinegar. 14 sh. per Barrel
6 months to November 13 3 £
Among things taken in part payment:
Bacon 13 d. per pound
Tallow for Bethlehem
Seed Celery
Cash
Butter
Suet
Linen
Beans 30

Other merchandise offered from time to time in payment for boarding and tuition fees included: "¼ hundred of Sugar (14 S), a cartload of Hay (3 £ 10S), a bushel of Indian Corn (2 S 2 d), and 38 pounds of Beef (8 S 3 d)." Charges were made for "washing and mending (2 years' service for 8 S), English Spelling Book (1 S 6 d), 2 doz. Dutch [German] Spelling Books at 9 d a piece (18 S), English Testament (2 S 6 d), Dutch [German] Testament (3 S 6 d), slate and sponge (3 S), a pair of shoes (4 S), mending a pair of shoes (1 S 1 d), and a pair of worsted stockings (2 S 10d)." The charge for a month's schooling seems to have been one shilling and six pence.

At a Moravian conference early in 1748, it was suggested that "we start a girls' boarding school in Germantown, similar in pattern to the one for boys which we have in Frederickstown." It was decided to remove the boys from Germantown to the Brethren's school at Oley in Berks County. On February 5, 1748, . . . in the forenoon the following persons met in our *Gemeinhaus* in Philadelphia: Br. and Sr. Francke, Br. and Sr. Schütthelm, Mrs. Sturgeon and her son Cornelius, Sr. Leibert, Br. Süssholtz, all of whom have boys in the Germantown school. To these Antes made known that Germantown was from the very first beginning intended for a girls' school but that the Brethren had out of necessity taken also some boys to Germantown, till such times, that the *Gemeinhaus* in Philadelphia was finished, where a school could be kept. And now since the house was most finished, the Brethren thought it now the time to make an alteration, and to remove the boys from Germantown. But since the Brethren knew very well that some parents would be unwilling to take their children to town again, they therefore resolved to let the children's parents have their choice, either to take their boys home to Philadelphia or to send them to Oley, in the school, where there is more room at present than in any of our schools. The parents listened very attentively, and seemed all unwilling to have their children home again but rather desired unanimously to have their children continue in the care of the Brethren at Oley. Afterwards Br. Antes and Br. Greening went to Mr. Franklin to enquire what he would do with his sister's son, Benjamin Croker, that had been hitherto in Germantown. They both were very much for it, that he might go with the rest to Oley, and promised in a very free and complaisant way, that they would provide him from time to time with all necessaries. After dear Br. Antes had settled some outward affairs, he went home again to Bethlehem, and Br. Reineke conducted him as far as Germantown. Here the children were acquainted at a Lovefeast with the boys' going to Oley, at which they were mightily rejoiced, and exceedingly willing to go; *i.e.*, those boys whose parents were willing that they should go. But the others grieved and lamented very much.

These boys—eleven of them—were transferred to the Oley school on February 22, 1748, and were later replaced in Germantown by twelve older girls whom Brother John Christopher Francke brought from the school at Nazareth "in accordance with the plan which is being evolved in our Germantown boarding school. Three girls from the Maguntsche school [in Emmaus, Lehigh County] will go with them." During the year between this transfer of pupils in May of 1748, and May of 1749, when the Germantown school was forced to close because of financial burdens, it was almost exclusively a girls' boarding school. The fourteen girls who were there at the end were brought to Bethlehem, and eleven of them were placed in the vacant Ysselstein House located on the south side of the Lehigh River and used for various school purposes from 1747 to 1753. The other three entered the older girls' choir house in Bethlehem.

Although there was no Moravian school in Germantown after 1749, it is very likely that some Germantown children were sent down to Philadelphia to the congregational school conducted there by the First Moravian Church, located near Second and Race Streets. The corner-stone of the church had been laid on September 10, 1742 by Count Zinzendorf, who also dedicated the completed building on November 25th of the same year. On January 12, 1743, the church had opened with thirty-four members. In accordance with the Brethren's invariable custom, those in Philadelphia, on finding themselves thus firmly established, turned their attention to educating the children of members of their communion and of others attached to their church. As a result, a congregational school was opened on March 29, 1748 which continued until at least 1763, except for the intervals of 1750–53 and 1759–62.

THE MUSICAL FUND SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

(*Continued from page 17*)

eminent architect and member of the Society, William Strickland, who designed some of the most striking and artistic monuments of his time. He was only one of the many men in the Musical Fund Society which included in its membership many prominent musicians, artists, lawyers, financiers, and men of affairs. I think among the musicians was Henry Fry, the composer of the first American Opera, "Leonora", since his brother, Joseph R., who wrote the libretto for "Leonora", was one of the Fund's early directors.

From the very beginning the Hall seems to have met with remarkable success, being in constant demand for all sorts of meetings. The Society of course gave a series of concerts of its own every year, but the Hall became the scene also for many outside concerts, symphonies, musicals, bazaars, balls, dances, lectures, orchestra recitals, private and public conventions, and commencement exercises. The Constitutional Convention of Pennsylvania of 1837 held its sessions there for a period of more than three months. The Commencements of the Central High School of Philadelphia were held there from 1848 to 1866 as also many commencements of the University of Pennsylvania. The first Republican Convention was held there in 1856. Dr. Hepburn tells me that some of the Bach Institute concerts and lectures were given there.

To go into details of the many concerts and recitals held there would be monotonous, so I shall mention only a few of the outstanding events. Among these was the premier performance in America of Mozart's "Magic Flute"; then there were renditions by the Society of the Oratorios and compositions of Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Mozart and other immortals; and occasionally compositions by the Society's own members. The directors and managers in those early years of enthusiasm and ambition led to the organizing of an "Academy of Music" with several branches, each of which gave performances. This phase of the Society's activities seems to have petered out within a few years. The Hall was also used for memorial services for eminent men, such for instance as the ceremonies held for Chief Justice John Marshall in 1835, when the eulogy was delivered by Horace Binney, a leader of the American Bar and a member of the Society. The following year a similar ceremony was held for David Paul Brown, when William Rawle, another distinguished Philadelphia Lawyer, delivered the eulogy. Incidentally, the Liberty Bell was cracked in 1835, while tolling for Chief Justice Marshall.

The various national conventions and meetings brought upon the stage of the Hall many of the most prominent statesmen, doctors, lawyers, clergymen, literary men, poets, educators, and business men of the day. Lafayette attended one of the concerts in 1825. Rev. William Henry Furness, the great abolitionist and father of Horace, the Shakespearean scholar, spoke there a number of times, as also Henry Reed, Professor of English; William Meredith, the novelist; George M. Dallas, Vice President of the United States; John B. Gough, the ardent prohibitionist; Samuel Lover, the Irish poet; Caleb Cushing, Indian authority; George Bancroft, the American Historian; Joseph R. Chandler; R. H. Dana, Jr.; Horace Greeley; Charles Dickens; Ralph Waldo Emerson. William M. Thackeray gave two series of public lectures, six in 1853 and four in 1856; Bayard Taylor, gave several series of travelogues for a number of years, he was Pennsylvania's leading literary man, poet, novelist and diplomat; Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, lectured there in 1895. Indeed, the fame of the Hall was such that actors, lecturers and touring musicians considered a visit to this remarkable auditorium a necessary part of their itinerary. It has been claimed for Musical Fund Hall, that from the time of its opening in 1824 to the beginning of the Civil War more artists and celebrities appeared on its stage than on the stage of any other Hall or theatre in the United States.

Of the numerous outstanding musicians and celebrated vocalists, who graced the Fund's stage, time will permit me to mention comparatively few. The earliest came largely from England but there were also many Americans. One of these was Benjamin Carr, a founder, who was unquestionably the leader of the musical life of Philadelphia for many years. He died a decade after the Society was organized. He was held in such esteem that his friends and admirers erected a monument to his memory in St. Peter's Church yard. William Strickland, of whom I spoke before, designed it as a labor of love. Among others who frequented the Society's stage were Thomas Sully, who became the leading portrait painter of his time; Benjamin Cross, an alumnus of U. of Pa., and the Society's inspiration, who became a leading vocalist, conductor and teacher; George Schetky, who became one of the country's outstanding musical authorities. Indeed most of the founders were or became men of renown in various cultural pursuits. Among the English artists were Charles J. Jarvis, pianist, whose son became one of America's great pianists; then there was Mrs. Austin; Madam Peron; Tyrone Power, who gave a series of Irish Song Recitals; Mr. and Mrs. Wood, who gave English versions of Bellini's operas "Sonnambula" and "Norma." Henry Russell, at the age of 70, appeared in recitals of his own compositions. Other stars of the time who appeared were Joseph Braham, Jane Sheriff, Elizabeth Pool and Ann Seguin. Some of these English

singers took part in the Society's premier production of the "Magic Flute." All the members of that cast, as well as the members of the orchestra, were distinguished musicians, and many music lovers from Boston and New York attended the performance.

For half a century, many world wide celebrated artists, vocalists and instrumentalists appeared on the Musical Fund stage. Among them were Madame Malibran, whose father brought Italian Opera to America. Her concert, given in 1827, was a brilliant success. The only adverse criticism of the evening's performance seems to have been a local paper's comment about the gloomy atmosphere of the Hall because of inadequate lighting, the critic advocating the immediate installation of gas, which was not done until a decade later in 1837. Ole Bull, the remarkable Scandinavian violinist gave a number of concerts from 1848 on. The State of Pennsylvania has named one of its public parks for him. Before and after this international artist, came others, such as W. W. Wallace, the composer of "Maritana"; Madame Cinti Vamoureau, for whom Rossini wrote special compositions; Artot, another great violinist; then in 1846 Camillo Sivori, hailed as the most talented violinist of his time, gave a concert. Sanguirico, an international buffo singer, gave a most successful concert. Other celebrities who gave recitals from time to time were Madame Castellan, Signor Casella, Rosina Pico, a world known soprano; Madame LaGrange, Brignoli and Amodio sang together in concert in 1855. About this time also appeared Grisi with Mario, who became her husband in 1856, and he was one of a group for whom Donizetti wrote "Don Pasquale." A world famous violinist who gave a concert was Vieuxtemps. Another renowned artist who appeared was Antoginini, Tenor. Among international vocalists were Albino, Brignolis and Hensler. Indeed up to near the beginning of the Civil War the Society staged many brilliant world celebrities. Perhaps the most sensational vocalists engaged by the Society were Henrietta Sontag, Grisi, Viardot, Malibran, Jenny Lind and Adelina Patti. No singer ever received a warmer welcome to Philadelphia than Sontag who gave a series of recitals in 1852, at every one of which she had her own distinguished staff assisting her in her programs. It was said that Beethoven, in Sontag's youth, predicted for her a glorious career, because "she has heart as well as voice." Another star who gave concerts was Hensler, whom I mentioned before. She was born in Boston, and was one of the first Americans who starred in various Italian operas. She became the wife of the King of Portugal, who, it is said gave up his throne for her. Another most sensational concert was given in 1852 by Adelina Patti, "then not yet eight years old." In the official program she was designated as "The most wonderful vocalist of her age" and affectionately known as "La Petite Jenny Lind," who had appeared in Musical Fund Hall the year before. She subsequently had a long career in Grand Opera, and made many appearances in America. Believe it or not, I had the pleasure of listening to her when she made her "farewell tour", singing at the Academy of Music in concert—about 1914—at the age of 72. I think she died four years later.

Although I attended many events in Musical Fund Hall during the early 1900's, the only one that stands out in my memory was given in 1920, when the Society celebrated its One Hundredth Anniversary, when members gave reproductions of various concerts and festivities, including an attempted impersonation of "Jenny Lind" the world famous singer, who gave a number of recitals in 1850 and 1851. She was probably the greatest singer of her time and affectionately called "The Swedish Nightingale." The Swedish Museum in Philadelphia has a special room dedicated to her memory, in which many of her costumes, personal effects, and souvenirs of her triumphs are displayed.

A moment ago I mentioned Grisi. A critic of her concert in 1855, said of her, "Malibran (in 1827) was more startling in her impulses, Viardot more intensely dramatic; Jenny Lind more sensational with her four high notes; Sontag more brilliant; but for the presentation of a part in its entireness, for the embodiment of powerful emotion, combined with beauty of person, richness and roundness of voice, with the power of exercising a potent spell over a vast audience Grisi had never been surpassed."

Gottshalk, who accompanied a number of the Fund's singers, and who also gave one of the last concerts before the Civil War, was probably the most talented pianist in America for some time.

Some of the collections and other activities of the Society must be mentioned. The paintings owned by it are outstanding; all of them are by eminent American portrait painters. Thomas Sully, one of the most enthusiastic and active members of the Society, a member of the first Board, and Vice President from 1860 to 1873, painted quite a number of portraits of the early officers and members. Among his canvases, owned by the Fund, are those of William DeWees, Robert M. Patterson, John K. Kane, and Robley Dunglison—all early presidents. Then there is one, a self portrait of Sully, painted in 1867, which is considered priceless. Other Sully canvases owned by the Society, are those of George Campbell, Francis Gurnsey Smith, Benjamin Gross and Franklin Peale. Sully's daughter, Rosalie, was the wife of the great American artist, John Neagle, who painted for the Society, a portrait of Mrs. Julia Wood, the Operatic star as "Amina" in "La Sonnambula". Then there are portraits by J. C. Darley of two charter members, Benjamin Carr and George Schetky. Among later artists represented in the collection are W. W. Gilchrist's portrait of Dr. Charles P. Turner; Carol Beck's portrait of Richard J. Dunglison, who became president in 1870, and held that office for 31 years, when, in 1901, Edward G. McCollin was elected;

his portrait was painted by Wayman Adams; the one of Murray Gibson, who followed McCollin in 1924 is by Leopold Seyffert. Gilbert R. Combs, who became President in 1927, was painted by Ricciardi. This rare collection of portraits by celebrated American painters is in itself most distinctive and a priceless treasure. Since the abandonment of the Hall and other quarters, the collection has been in the custody of the Art Museum of Philadelphia. The value of the collection has been appraised at $75,000.

Many members, through their musical talent, performances, donations, compositions, and general cooperation have added greatly to the prestige of the Musical Fund Society. Among these were such men as Septimus Winner, the author and composer of "Listen to the Mocking Bird", a song which he sold "for a mere song," and which netted the purchaser a fortune, since he is said to have sold twenty million copies of it. Winner was the composer of innumerable popular songs, and many arrangements. His home was in Germantown, where he had a music store on Germantown Ave., near Coulter. His brother, J. E. Winner, also a member of the Society, was also a composer, his most popular song being "The Little Brown Jug." He was a beautiful character, and for some time was associated with me on "Old Penn."

Through the Society's concerts, rentals and wise investments, it accumulated a substantial Fund, which it has used for the relief of needy musicians, and which is still being used to promote its objects. Its early orchestras have often been cited as the forerunner of the Philadelphia Orchestra, which held a hundred of its first rehearsals in Musical Fund Hall. It was founded under the direction of Fritz Scheel, and the Society gave to it liberally of its means as well as its strong moral support.

In 1925 it offered ten thousand dollars in prizes for the best compositions for string quartets. The competition was world wide, and in 1928 the first prize was divided between Bela Bartok of Hungary; and Alfred Casella, of Italy. Among other prize winners were J. Waldo Warner of London, England, for a quintet for piano and strings; and Carlo Jachino, of Italy, for a string quartet in E Minor.

The Society was active in the establishment of the Robin Hood Dell concerts by the Philadelphia Orchestra, and donated a substantial sum of money. Also in recent years, it encouraged young musicians by holding competitions. The winning compositions are frequently given public hearings and recitals.

In 1927, and for a period of seven years, the Society's Ensemble gave concerts in junior and senior high schools of Philadelphia. For five years from 1948 to 1953, in conjunction with the Free Library of Philadelphia, it gave a series of six free concerts each year, by the famous Curtis String Quartet. As trustees of the McCollin Memorial Fund, competitions for orchestral works are held frequently and the compositions of those winning awards are usually performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In conclusion, the collection of rare manuscripts for the voice and instrumental music for trios, quartets and orchestras, and its valuable collection of scores, and original compositions, are now in the custody of the Music Division of the Philadelphia Free Library.

The Musical Fund Hall was sold a number of years ago. I tried to save it by having it utilized as a "National Museum of Music," but it was decided by the Directors, and I think wisely, that it would be impractical and too expensive to maintain without a liberal grant or guarantee from outside sources.

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STRANGE HISTORY OF THE PAXTANG RAID

(Continued from page 9)

Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Chew, Thomas Willing and Joseph Galloway to treat with them. As a result a delegation of about thirty of the Rangers, headed by Matthew Smith and James Gibson, proceeded to Philadelphia, where they were escorted by a body of Militia to the Governor and presented their petition. They visited the barracks where the Indians were confined for protection, and later proceeded peaceably home. Incidentally, small pox broke out among the Indians and about one third of them died.

Accounts varied as to the conduct of the Paxtang Boys while in Germantown. They were described as a fine set of fellows dressed in blanket coats and moccasins and armed with rifles and some pistols. One contemporary report stated that they behaved very well, talked civilly with the residents, many of whom flocked around to see them, and that they paid for their own food. There are other reports to the effect that they poked guns into the windows, scared inhabitants, and pretended to scalp them. But specific instances of any such acts are not noted.

However, after presenting their petition to the Governor and Assembly, they went quietly home, and from that time on they proceeded to deal with the frontier situation quite effectively, so that there was little more trouble.

But the aftermath of this "Raid" was a most astonishing deluge of virulent pamphlets in extremely intemperate language, setting forth both sides of the question. Benjamin Franklin issued one such pamphlet, which was characterized as an ingenious fabrication, and which he later admitted had been written to bolster up a weak Government. Quakers in general condemned the entire proceedings and some referred to the Settlers as "ignorant bigots", murderers", etc., and demanded the arrest and prosecution of Captain Lazarus Stewart, a leader of the Paxtang group.

Pastor Elder stood back of him and his associates and stated that they were humane men of good character. The Settlers ridiculed the practice of calling white men who were concerned in these border incidents murderers, while Indians were excused as "ignorant savages in liquor".

So the argument raged on until the bibliography of such publications became the longest of our early history. Fortunately the focussing of attention on the situation did tend to help matters and the frontier was from that time more peaceful. One result of the affair was an impressive demonstration of the ineffectiveness of the Proprietary form of Government, and this led to its replacement, and concentrated attention on such matters, probably influencing the eventual formation of our State Governments.

JOURNAL OF A TOUR TO LONG-BRANCH, NEW JERSEY IN 1798

(*Continued from page 6*)

leads to a steep bank on the edge of the shore, and the west Atlantic burst's at once on the sight, as I had never before seen the Ocean, I cannot attempt to describe the emotions I felt at viewing one of the grandest scene in nature, I thought I could never look enough, & felt all the time I was there, as if every moment was lost that I was away from it . . . we found a large company at T. Chandlers, with whom we were totally unacquainted but in one morning we became sociable, & I don't think if we had, had our choice we could have found a more agreeable sett. I never recollect spending one week of my life so completely delightful. The weather was generally fine and the sun almost always shone clear, to enjoy which, we went into the surf, at the time of its rising. . . . The day was generally spent in riding or walking about, in parties and every evening our happy company assembled under the arbour, to see the moon, which was then full, rise from the bosom of the ocean, and enjoy her mild beams reflected on the broad expanse of water, we walked, set, conversed and sung, and the noise of the waves dashing against the shore, which to me, was melody, filled up the pauses in the voices of my companions. When I recall those scenes, I am lost in the recollections, & I feel they are too deeply impressed on my mind to easily be erased, . . . but this happiness only lasted seven days, on the third of August, we bid adieu to the agreeable company, and prepared for home, when I turned from the shore, I looked back on the time I had spent there as one of "those painted clouds that Beautify our days"—& enliven the dull round of Life with a few rays of the brightest sunshine. . . . I had left Pleasure behind, & all the cares & fears of home rushed at once on my mind, to fill up the vacancy parting had occasioned, . . . We were accompanied by Major Erwin of Bucks County, a sensible, instructive & very agreeable companion,—breakfasted at the COLT'S NECK and at Monmouth turned off, intending to come home a different road from that which we went, dined at ENGLISH TOWN and lodged at CAMBRAY, nothing worthy of remark at the latter Place except its Dirt. August 4th.—rose early and go to PRINCETOWN to breakfast which Place we were much pleased with, Brother sent for Theodore Talbot, with whom we walked over the town & visited the College, where he is a student, the situation of Princetown is high and from the top of the College, there is one of the finest Prospects, that can be imagined, the eye stretches over a large extent of highly cultivated country, and at a vast distance appear the hills of Monmouth, fading into the Horizon,—we here saw the celebrated Orrery of Rittenhouse,† to those who understand Mechanism, it must be a great curiosity, but to me it appeared more complex and abstruse, than the system of Astronomy it is designed to elucidate, . . . at TRENTON we dined and were detained by rain till next morn, however the latter part of the afternoon it held up sufficiently for us to walk, accompanied by Major Erwin, we went to the State house, which has a commanding situation on the banks of the Delaware & a beautiful view of Morrisville, which is situated opposite, after our return to the Inn, the Major introduced us to that distinguished character Governor Howell, who favored us with his company a short time. August 5th—This morn we, with much regret parted from Major Erwin, who was going to Newtown, and we coming on to the city, crossed the river between Trenton and Lamberton and got to BRISTOL, to breakfast, the road to this place is beautiful, I suppose for four miles you ride along the banks of the Delaware, after an excellent Breakfast at McElroy's we proceeded on to Philadelphia, where we arrived between one & two o'clock, after being gone eleven Days and a half—and here that Pain generally succeeds pleasure, I fully experienced, in the shock I received in hearing of my dear little Cousin J. Remmington's Death, tho he was sick when I left home, I still was in hopes of seeing him, before his final Departure, and is to me a source of deep regret, all the rest of the Family, we found in health and much pleasure—at our safe return.

signed Sarah Wheeler

*The Orrery of Rittenhouse is still at Princeton University. It is in the University library and there is also one made by Rittenhouse in the University of Penna's library.

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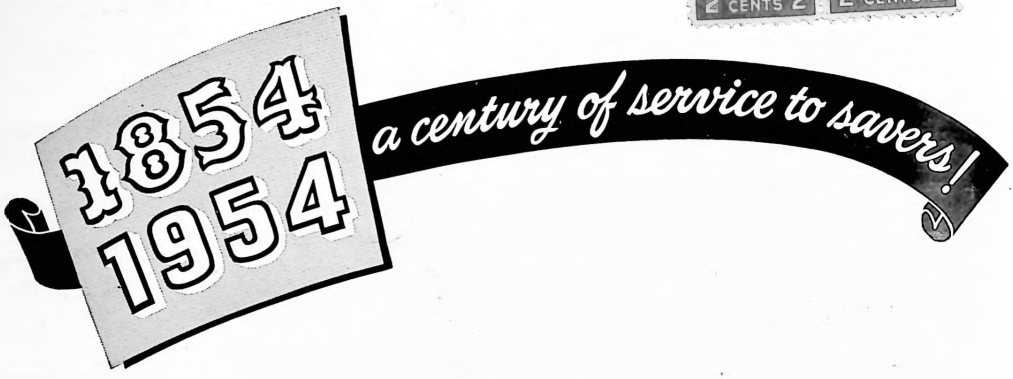
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