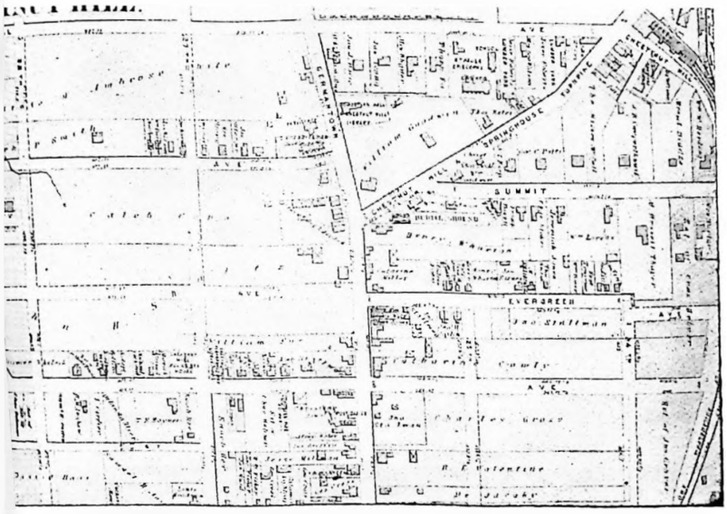
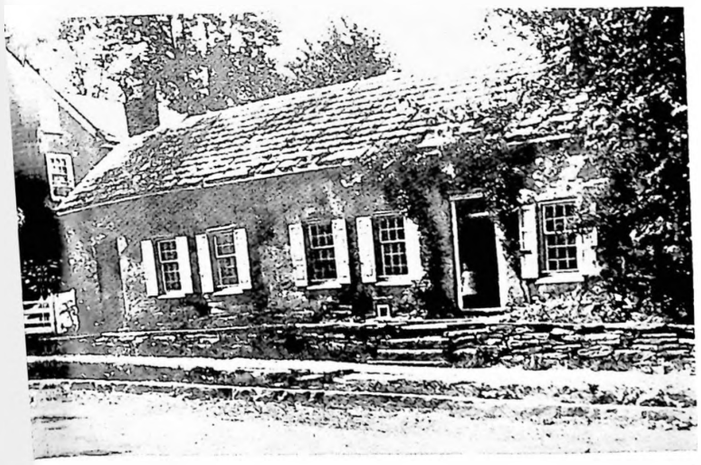
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Chestnut Hill in 1876—note location of Christian Hall Library Germantown Avenue a little northwest of the end of Rex Ave). Note absence of Penna. Railroad—the Chestnut Hill Branch was built in 1884.



The Chestnut Hill Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia opened to the public in 1907. This shows the Library at about that date.



The Daniel Snyder House—the first circulating library in Chestnut Hill was in this house (Germantown Ave. nearly opposite the Chestnut Hill Library).



Houses now on site once occupied by the Daniel Snyder house (Germantown Avenue nearly opposite the Chestnut Hill Library).

See Page 11

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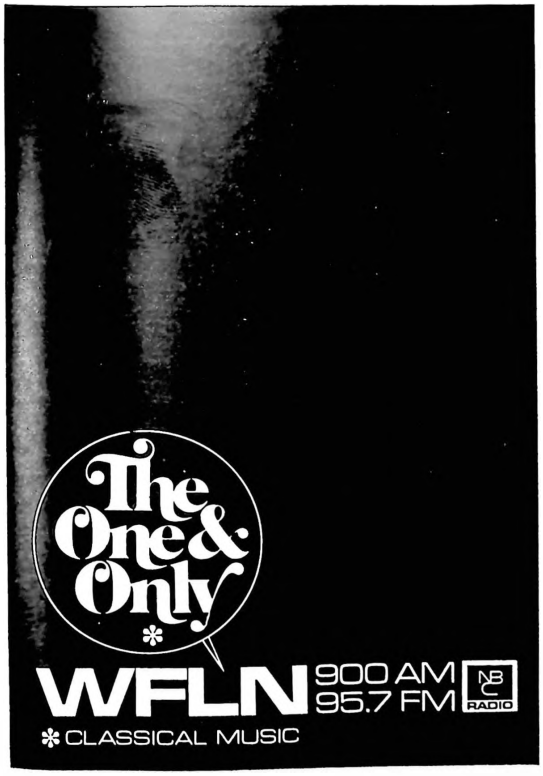
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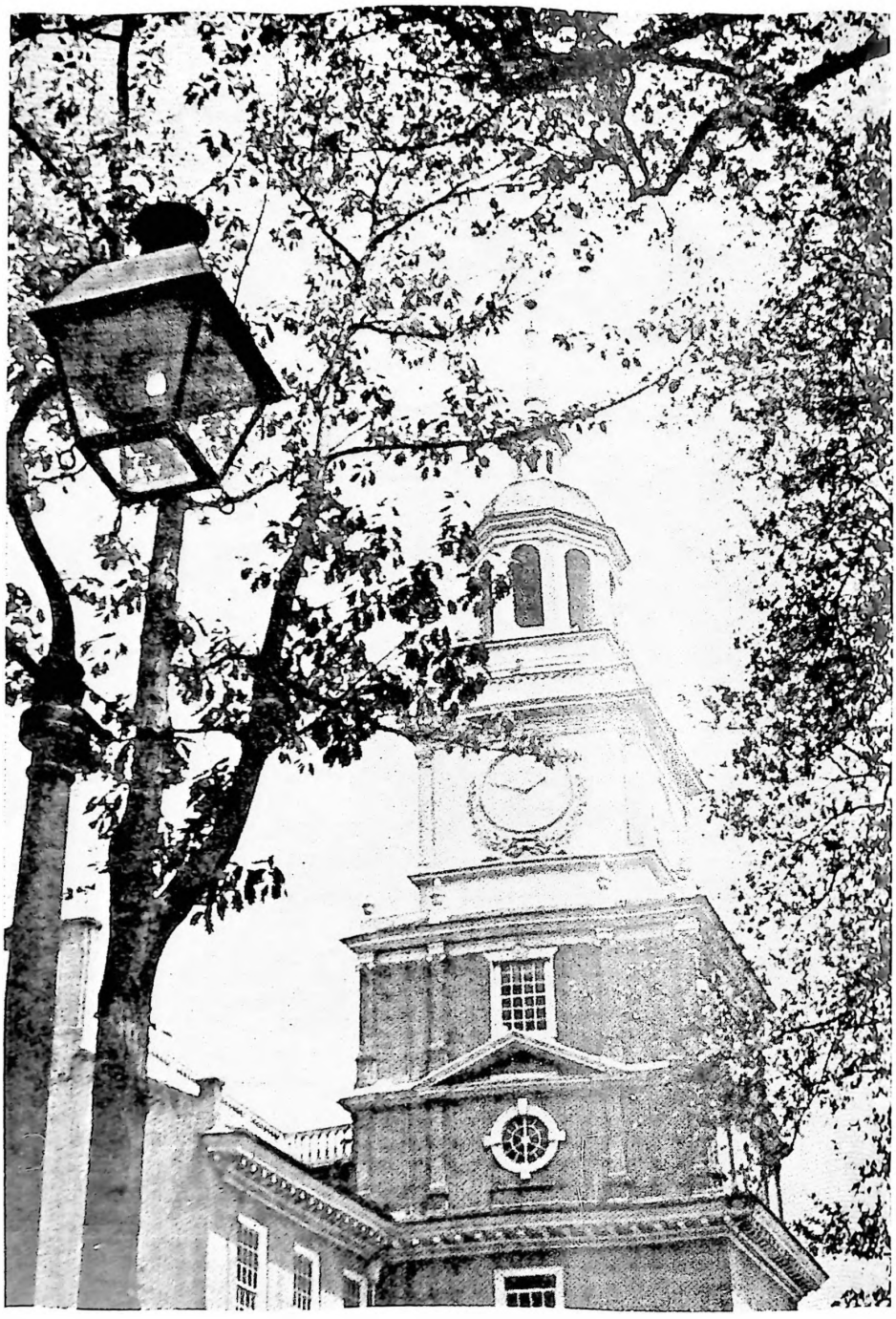
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Report of the President



Harold D. Saylor

IN ITS seventy-fourth year of existence the Germantown Historical Society through its Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion Committee has made progress in the long-time effort to acquire title to that Victorian house. Under the leadership of Mrs. F. Joseph Stokes, Jr., Chairman, the Committee has finally come to terms with the owners for the purchase of the house. In the near future it is expected that settlement will be made and at long last the Victorian furniture and objects d'art given to the Society will be housed in the Maxwell House Museum. Mrs. Stokes and her predecessor, Mrs. Edw. W. Wilson, her Committee, and the other men and women, who over the years have worked earnestly to bring about the addition of a Victorian house to the Society's list of Colonial houses, deserve the thanks of all of us.

Mr. Reed Engle, our Administrator, has arranged throughout the past year a series of interesting membership meetings. Following the Annual Membership Meeting the Reverend Edward T. Horn spoke on "The Formation of the Lutheran Church in Germantown." On November 21 Beatrice B. Garvan, Associate Curator of American Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, spoke on "Early Views of Philadelphia—City-Country Life in the Eighteenth Century." On other occasions Dr. Evan Turner spoke on public statuary in the city and Charles Blockson on "Black History in Germantown." At a Seminar held in the Germantown Lutheran Academy Dr. Margaret Tinkcom, Mrs. John Stoddart and Mrs. Richard Wilson spoke on Eighteenth Century houses and furniture. Mrs. John W. Farr spoke on the section of Germantown Avenue that is a National Landmark.

Once again Mr. Ollinger and Dr. Venable with the help of other members of the Society successfully conducted the Annual House Tour in Germantown and brought needed funds to our treasury and pleasure to those who took the tour. We are much indebted to those who gave so much of their time and effort to this important activity of the Society.

Mrs. Margaret Bostwick, Chairman of the Relics Committee, has continued to preserve and display attractively the many very interesting articles in our various Museums. Presently she is personally carrying out her plan to redecorate the walls of the Museum in the Howell House. We are grateful to her for her generosity.

Miss Deborah Ritter has served well as Chairman of the Costumes Committee, Mr. Brown as Chairman of the Library Committee and Mr. Ollinger as House Committee Chairman. Thanks are due them for their services, all so important to the Society. The various chairmen of the Morris House Committees—Mrs. Richard Wilson, Mrs. Edward T. Horn and Dr. Venable have earned our gratitude for their faithful attention to their duties in conducting the operation of the Germantown White House. The National Park Service in the next few months will carry out extensive restoration in the house which will be closed for several months. In the meantime the furniture and furnishings of the house will be safe in the adjoining property, the Bringhurst House, which was recently acquired by the National Park Service by gift from the Germantown Savings Bank.

Mr. Leonard Denis has served well as Assistant Secretary and Historian, being successor to Miss Ritter in the latter office. Mr. Donahue as usual has been faithfully serving as Solicitor and Mr. Martindale as Treasurer. It is gratifying to know that the Society's financial condition is sound. Members have been paying their dues, sometimes after being reminded to send in their checks. Tenants have kept up to date with their rent. Advertisers obtained by Mr. Ollinger for the CRIER have been paying what they owe and the expense of printing the CRIER has been largely met by the receipts from the advertisers.

Miss Comly as Editor of our excellent quarterly magazine has worked diligently and effectively in getting out on time a publication of which we can all be proud. Recently a new leaflet has been printed which will be helpful in securing new members of the Society. Miss Phelps continues as Chairman of the Membership Committee.

At the Annual Meeting of the membership in the fall all officers were reelected with the exception of Miss Hinton who asked to be excused from further service after the current year. Mrs. Reid McNeill was elected to the office of Secretary as her successor. Thanks are given to Miss Hinton for her work over the years. We are pleased that Mrs. McNeill has volunteered to succeed her in performing the important duties of the office.

At the Annual Meeting the following members of the Class of 1977 of the Board of Managers were re-elected to serve for another term of three years: Mesdames Smith, Ritter and Wilson, Miss Comly and Mr. Staples. The Board of Managers met regularly during the year. Attendance was good and much was accomplished at each meeting. Your President appreciates the contribution of time and effort that the members of the Board of Managers make to the Society year after year. Many of them as Chairmen of Committees have been giving significant help to all of us.

The Wyck Committee of the Society, created over a year ago when the home of the Haines family was placed in a trust for charitable purposes by Mrs. Robert B. Haines, has met frequently at Wyck in the performance of its duties as the representative of the Society which has been entrusted by the First Pennsylvania Bank with the operation of the house. Plans are now being made to add to the principal of the capital fund operated by the trustee in augmentation of the Haines family's significant contribution to that fund so that there will be adequate endowment that will provide income for the administration of the house, its dependencies and the garden, all in evidence of the quality of life lived in Wyck for so many generations by the Haines family. Mr. Charles Huston Haines, the Committee Chairman, has worked indefatigably in his office. Mrs. McNeill, the new Secretary of the Society, is carrying on as Secretary of the Committee in succession to Miss Hinton. In due course it is expected that the fabric of the house will be fully safeguarded, burglar and fire alarm systems will be installed and the work of embellishing the fine garden and protecting the splendid trees will be continued.

Mr. Engle as Administrator of the Society has been doing his utmost to obtain Bi-Centennial funds that will enable us to place in first-class condition by 1976 the ten houses now owned or operated by the Society and in the case of the Maxwell Mansion to be acquired by it. Mr. Engle has also conducted a fix-up, paint-up party at the Conyngham-Hacker House. Young volunteers did considerable work on this project.

Altogether the Society has had a busy and interesting year. The President is most grateful to all of the men and women who have given so much of their time in carrying on the work of the Society. May all of them have the satisfaction of knowing that they have worked for a worthwhile cause. And may our members visit our Museums, read the CRIER, and attend the meetings arranged from time to time for their edification and enjoyment.

HAROLD D. SAYLOR

MEETING SCHEDULE

January 16, Thursday,

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church,
East Chestnut Hill Avenue, Chestnut Hill
8:00—JOINT MEETING WITH CHESTNUT HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

Life (payable quarterly or at once)	$100.00
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Interested persons are cordially invited to obtain further information by writing to the chairman of the Membership Committee, Miss Ann Naile Phelps.

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The Christian Hall Library Company of Chestnut Hill

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

By JOHN MCARTHUR HARRIS, JR.

ON MARCH 11, 1873, the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia decreed that "Roger Owen, Jessie S. Kneedler, and others, having associated themselves for literary purposes under the title 'The Christian Hall Library Company of Chestnut Hill' . . . shall become and be a body politic or corporation." March 11, 1873 is, therefore, the birthdate of the corporation and March 11, 1973, the 100th anniversary, an important milestone, worthy, in the opinion of the Board of Managers of appropriate ceremonies and the preparation of a history of the corporation.

A study of the Christian Hall Library during the past hundred years involved the collection of information on the library in Chestnut Hill, The Free Library of Philadelphia, the history of Germantown and Chestnut Hill, and an extensive cast of characters. The resulting compilation is too extensive for an article such as this. Readers interested in further information may consult the records kept at the Chestnut Hill Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia and at the Central Library on Logan Square.

For some reason, remote events of many years ago are more interesting than more recent ones and this article will be more concerned with early days.

It will be recalled that the first Philadelphia library originated as Franklin's Junto, July 1, 1731, and later became the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Germantown, the land granted to Pastorius by William Penn and occupied by the original settlers in 1683, extended from what is now Wayne Junction to Northwestern Avenue and Chestnut Hill College. For many years the inhabitants spoke German and, no doubt, devoted themselves to survival rather than to books and libraries. However, as early as 1744, there was a library in Germantown of which the only remaining record is a notice of the twentieth annual meeting of the Board of Managers in 1764.

The Germantown Library Company was founded in 1807. It was first located in the Germantown Academy and, after several relocations, was abandoned in 1842.

Daniel Snyder started Chestnut Hill's first circulating library in 1822, in a building nearly opposite the present library. This was abandoned in 1840.

The "Temperance Hall and Library," on the northeast corner of Highland Avenue and Shawnee Street, was built in 1845, with money raised by "fairs and festivals." This building is still standing and now houses several apartments.

"The Charter Oak Library and Literary Association of Germantown" was created in 1855. They met in the Concord School House on Germantown Avenue above Washington Lane and continued until 1932.

The "Germantown Library Association and Historical Society" was founded by Miss Hannah Ann Zell in 1869. It was, apparently, the first Germantown Historical Society. It was on the second floor of the Germantown Fire Insurance Company building on Market Square. This building was torn down to make way for the reproduction of the Delaplaine House which now occupies the site. Miss Zell died in 1911 and the library was abandoned in 1913.

The Friends' Free Library, on Germantown Avenue near the Germantown Friends School, was established in 1874 and is still very much in business.

The Lovett Memorial Library, at Germantown Avenue and Sedgwick Street, was built in 1887 by Mrs. Charles Lovett Bostwick as a memorial to her brother, Thomas R. Lovett. It became a branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia in 1924.

The foregoing may not be a complete list of Germantown libraries but it will indicate the accuracy of Macfarlane's statement when he writes:

> "One of the striking things in the history of Chestnut Hill is the longing for a public library and hall. . . . When the Congress Fire Company received the money from the sale of the old Harmony School building it was upon condition that it erect a hall for library and other purposes. . . .
>
> "In 1846 there were a number of meetings held in order to raise money for a public hall and library. . . . The active spirits in this movement were Mathias Haas, Joseph Middleton, Samuel Rex, and John H. Sheetz, but they never succeeded in securing a hall or library. It was not until Henry J. Williams founded the Christian Hall Library that their hopes were realized."
>
> —*History of Early Chestnut Hill* by John J. Macfarlane, page 118

It is necessary to note that the Christian Hall Library was officially opened for public use on January 10, 1871, and operated under the benevolent guidance

of Henry J. Williams until the formation of the Christian Hall Library Corporation on March 11, 1873. 1973, therefore, marks the 100th anniversary of the Corporation, not the library.

The Christian Hall Library was erected on the site of the present Chestnut Hill Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, near the intersection of Germantown Avenue and the Bethlehem Pike. The lot on which the library was erected was purchased by Mr. Williams on January 29, 1870, from Thomas L. Bates and Leah, his wife, for $3,600. On September 1, 1871, Mr. Williams purchased an adjacent lot from Thomas L. and Leah Bates (nee Leah Yeakel), for $2,000.

The Christian Hall Library Company records include the brief of title prepared at the time Mr. Williams acquired the first lot. It gives a quick look at the history of the center of Chestnut Hill and may be summarized as follows:

1733 (June 19) John Penn, Proprietary, to George McCall
1739 To Samuel McCall (son of George McCall)
1760 To John Bause
1771 To Mathias Bush (Sheriff's sale)
1791 To Samuel McCauley
1796 To Jacob Lenz
1828 To Jacob Yeakel
1863 To Leah Bates (nee Leah Yeakel)
1870 To Henry J. Williams.

Henry J. Williams, the creator of the Christian Hall Library, was born on Christmas Day, 1791. He died on March 12, 1879. His life span of 88 years was a period of extraordinary interest and accomplishment and his family played prominent parts in the early history of this country.

Mr. Williams' paternal grandfather, described as a "Boston Puritan of wealth and strong character," was a relative of Benjamin Franklin. Active in civic affairs and an ardent patriot, he presided at the famous meeting in Faneuil Hall at which it was resolved to prohibit the landing of tea from England. As an inevitable result, when the British occupied Boston, the Williams properties were either destroyed or taken over by the crown. However, the family seems to have prospered for, in 1792, Mount Pleasant, one of the most elegant country seats in Philadelphia, was sold by Mr. Shippen to General Jonathan Williams, the son of the Boston Puritan and the father of Henry J. Williams.

The United States Military Academy at West Point has roots in Germantown. The project was first discussed at a cabinet meeting in the Morris House. Washington favored it and Jefferson opposed it. It was finally approved by Congress in 1802, while Jefferson was president. General Jonathan Williams, the father of Henry J. Williams, became the first superintendent.

General Williams' wife, the mother of Henry J. Williams, was a daughter of William Alexander of Edinburgh.



Henry J. Williams, Esq.

Henry J. Williams attended Dartmouth College and the Military Academy at West Point of which his father was the superintendent. He studied law under the noted Horace Binney and, as counsel for the Sheriff of Philadelphia, tried innumerable cases at a time when the Sheriff was "harassed by litigation" and, for years, he was engaged in nearly every great case that came up in the Philadelphia courts.

He married Julia, the daughter of Philadelphia's famous Dr. Benjamin Rush.

In 1857, Mr. Williams retired from practice and bought a country place in Chestnut Hill on the east side of Stenton Avenue between Paper Mill Road and Birch Lane. A map of 1876 shows that he also owned the property at the junction of Stenton Avenue and the Bethlehem Pike, now occupied by the Fairview Nursing Home.

During his retirement years Mr. Williams was devoted to the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill and to charitable works. He purchased the land and built the building at the southeast corner of Willow Grove Avenue and Stenton Avenue for the Bethesda Home for Destitute Children and, in 1870, purchased a lot on Germantown Avenue (then called the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike) near its intersection with the Bethlehem Pike (then called the Chestnut Hill and Springhouse Turnpike). On this lot he erected a building for a library which he called "The Christian Hall Library" because he did not desire any meeting held in the hall which would be inconsistent with the word "Christian." (Macfarlane, page 118.)

The Christian Hall Library opened on January 10, 1871, with appropriate dedication ceremonies at which

Judge Martin Russell Thayer made the speech of the occasion, a learned presentation of the history of libraries, the invention of printing, and other pertinent subjects. A printed copy of this speech is with the records in the Central Library on Logan Square. Until the formation of the corporation, Mr. Williams ran the library. The librarian was George Bessan who was also the Chestnut Hill postmaster, an arrangement that was possible because the library was open from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The men who petitioned for a charter of incorporation for the Christian Hall Library Company of Chestnut Hill were:

Roger Owen	M. Russell Thayer
Jesse S. Kneedler	James T. Young
Henry D. Landis	Alexander Biddle
George C. Morris	F. W. Vanuxem
Thomas Potter	John Sparhawk
A. B. Kerper	Reginald H. Chase
John J. Macfarlane	Henry J. Williams

George Junkin, Esq., acted as attorney for the petitioners and, as already indicated, the charter was granted on March 3, 1873. (Recorded Miscellaneous Book F.T.W., No. 1, page 229 etc. March 12, 1873.)

The charter stated that "The special object of this society is to provide comfortable rooms, well supplied with attractive and instructive books, wherein the people of Chestnut Hill, without any distinction of age, sex, race, or color, may read and study, and all persons whose deportment is unobjectionable shall have free access to the library and, subject to the rules and regulations of the Board of Managers, the free use of the books therein. Open from four to nine o'clock p.m., and longer whenever the managers shall so direct, on every weekday except legal holidays but never, under any circumstances, on the Sabbath. The hall on the second story, but not the library rooms, may, however, be opened and used on that day for meetings to promote the cause of religion or morality but no admission fee shall ever be demanded for such Sabbath services."

Membership in the Society was subject to approval by the Board of Managers and the annual payment of a fee of $5. Life membership required a payment of $40, "all at once."

Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Managers have been well preserved and a book containing typed copies is in the Chestnut Hill Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. As of the end of the year 1973, there have been 193 meetings.

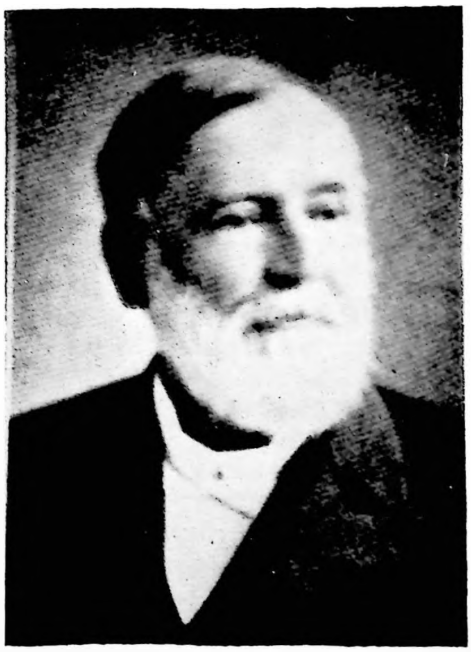
At their first meeting on June 9, 1873, the Board elected the Rev. Roger Owen, president; Colonel Alexander Biddle, Treasurer; and John J. Macfarlane, Secretary. Andrew Fisher was elected librarian and an Executive Committee, a Finance Committee, and a Committee on Bye Laws were appointed. Thus began the corporate life of the Christian Hall Library Company of Chestnut Hill.

We can give only brief sketches of some of the "incorporators," members of the original Board of Managers. They were all interesting—men of ability and accomplishment.

The Rev. Roger Owen, the first president, was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill and lived in the manse just across Germantown Avenue from the library. Earlier in his career he had a church in Philadelphia but throat trouble made speaking difficult and he and his brother, Joshua Owen (later General Owen) came to Chestnut Hill and started a school at Germantown Avenue and Springfield Avenue which later developed into the present Chestnut Hill Academy. Fortunately his throat trouble disappeared and, when the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill was organized in 1852, he became the first pastor. He resigned the pastorate because of poor health in 1885 and was pastor emeritus until his death in January of 1890. His brother, General Joshua Owen, lived in the house still standing on the northeast corner of Chestnut Hill and Germantown Avenues.

Mr. A. B. Kerper had been the steward of the Mower Hospital in Wyndmoor. This was a 3600 bed hospital, far surpassing in size any hospital built before or since the Civil War. Mr. Kerper was responsible for supplies of food, clothing, etc., a difficult job in war time.

Judge Martin Russell Thayer lived on Summit Street and was very active in civic affairs. He was the judge that granted the charter for the Free Library of Philadelphia on February 18, 1891. His name appears frequently in Christian Hall records and, as already noted, he was the speaker at the ceremony opening the library on January 10, 1871.



Rev. Roger Owen—1852-1885
First President of the Board of Managers

Mr. J. W. Vanuxen was a man of many interests. He was a close personal friend of the Rev. Roger Owen and Superintendent of the Sunday School in the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. He was a progenitor of the Hebard family, well known in Chestnut Hill in more recent times.



James W. Vanuxen
One of the original "Corporators" of the Christian Hall Library

Reginald H. Chase ran a college preparatory school on Rex Avenue back of the Presbyterian Church—possibly the first college preparatory school in Chestnut Hill.

James T. Young and Henry D. Landis, both gave large collections of books to the library. Mr. Young lived on East Chestnut Hill Avenue, next to St. Paul's Church. Mr. Landis lived on East Evergreen Avenue.

In earlier days Jesse Kneedler lived in Philadelphia near Rittenhouse Square and was the owner of a large dry goods store. Every year, in May, he and his family migrated to Chestnut Hill where they spent the summer. After the Reading Railroad reached Chestnut Hill in 1854, they settled permanently in a large, brown stone house on Germantown Avenue near the present Loughlin Lane.

George C. Morris lived near the intersection of Birch Lane and Montgomery Avenue.

John Sparhawk lived on West Gravers Lane next to the site later occupied by the Trinity Presbyterian Church. He was a lawyer in "mercantile and general practice."

Colonel Alexander Biddle was Henry J. Williams' son-in-law. He was a banker and a director of the Pennsylvania Company for Assurances on Lives and Granting Annuities.

Thomas Potter, Sr., was born in Ireland and came to Philadelphia in 1829 when he was ten years old. He wanted to study for the ministry but the early death of his father forced him to work to support his family. He was first employed by Isaac Macauley, owner of the Bush Hill Oil Cloth Company, the main building of which was the original manor house of James Hamilton, twice governor of the Province of Pennsylvania. In 1838 he founded the Thomas Potter Company and shortly thereafter purchased the Bush Hill Oil Cloth Works from Isaac Macauley. He was a very successful business man and at the time of his death a very wealthy one. In June, 1869, Mr. Potter bought "The Evergreens," a property on the southwest corner of Stenton Avenue and Summit Street, where he lived until his death in 1878. One of his sons, Charles Potter, built "The Anglecott," at the corner of Evergreen and Prospect Avenues.

John J. Macfarlane, the company's first secretary, wrote a *History of Early Chestnut Hill* (published by the City History Society of Philadelphia, 1927) that has long been a favorite of local historians and has been most helpful in the preparation of this article.

For a description of Chestnut Hill in the 1870's we are indebted to Mr. Henry N. Paul who wrote:

> "From 1870 to 1880 our family lived in Chestnut Hill during the summers and attended the Presbyterian Church, then a small country church. Germantown Pike and Bethlehem Pike were then dusty turnpike roads. There were a few stores near the Reading station but otherwise the houses in Chestnut Hill were either farm houses or suburban residences, except for the Eagle Inn (now Robertsons) and Donat's Tavern (site now occupied by Kilian's hardware store) at opposite corners of what is now Highland Avenue (and Germantown Avenue) where was also the toll gate where all vehicles had to pay toll."

For more of the atmosphere of the 70's consider the following:

In 1866 the population of Chestnut Hill was 1,229.
In 1870 the population of the United States was 39,818,449.
In 1870 John D. and William Rockefeller organized the Standard Oil Company.
In 1871 Yale and Harvard met in a crew race at Worcester, Mass. Yale came in first but was disqualified for having run into Harvard.
In 1871 the first professional baseball association was organized.
In 1871 the famous "Chicago Fire" killed 250 people.
In 1872 Eadweard Muybridge, an English photographer experimented with motion pictures.
In 1872 Montgomery Ward started in Chicago.
In 1873 Memorial Day first became a legal holiday —in New York State.
In 1873 President Grant started his second term.
In 1873 the "Panic of 1873" was precipitated by the failure of Jay Cooke & Co., a banking house involved in financing the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Looking back towards 1873 we realize that the

Christian Hall Library Company started at the beginning of a golden age for the American business man, an age that produced many innovations that were promoted with immense profits. However, by studying the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Managers we get the impression that, in spite of the favorable economic climate, our library was never overly affluent and that progress in those early days was slow and modest.

During 1873, more than fifty annual subscribers were enrolled and the library was made "circulating after December 15, 1873." That same year Mr. Williams resigned from the Executive Committee but wished to continue paying expenses such as the salaries of the librarian and the janitor, the bill for coal, etc.

In 1874 the library extravagantly acquired a "Buffalo Patent Water Cooler and Ice," and sponsored its first lecture, the McHarg Lectures.

In 1876 a Committee on Ventilation and Heating was appointed and it was resolved to "attempt to raise $400 to make the library free for all." This was the year of the Centennial Exposition and the year the Maple Shade Inn, better known to the residents of Chestnut Hill as "The Dustpan," was opened for business on the triangular lot at the intersection of the Bethlehem Pike and Germantown Avenue. During this year the Board rescinded the librarian's "half hour for supper" and Mr. Fisher, the incumbent, resigned as of January 1, 1877. David Macfarlane succeeded him at a salary of $25 per month.

In 1877 the board gave Mr. Williams permission to erect a small building for the Y.M.C.A. on the back part of the library property. This building was always referred to as "The Annex."

During 1878 the minutes show that Colonel Biddle resigned as treasurer and was succeeded by Mr. Young. Also that Thomas Potter died on September 29, 1878.

Henry J. Williams died on March 12, 1879, and, according to Hotchkin, "his death was felt to be a public calamity." In a codicil to his will he left $15,000 to the Christian Hall Library "to make it a free library." He thought of bequeathing a larger sum but was convinced that the people of Chestnut Hill would be more interested if their continued efforts were necessary to keep the library functioning. The codicil was witnessed by John G. Johnson who was born in the house still standing at 8428 Germantown Avenue and who became the "Dean of the Philadelphia Bar" and the founder of an important art collection now in the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

—*Germantown, Mount Airy, and Chestnut Hill*
By Rev. S. F. Hotchkin, M.A.
Pub. by P. W. Ziegler & Co., Phila., 1889

In 1879 Mr. William Potter, the son of Thomas Potter, was elected to the board and the librarian's salary was increased to $30 per month.

During 1880 the minutes show that Mr. Vanuxen died and that Mr. George H. Stuart was elected to replace him. The Workingmen's Club of Chestnut Hill was given permission to use the Annex. Judge Martin Russell Thayer resigned from the board and Mr. E. N. Benson was nominated to succeed him. Later, in 1881, Mr. Benson declined the nomination and Mr. Stuart Patterson was elected to fill the vacancy on the board.

In 1882 Mr. George C. Morris died and Samuel Y. Heebner was elected his successor. The following year, 1883, the first telephone was installed in Chestnut Hill. The number was Germantown 127.

In 1884 the Chestnut Hill Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad ran its first train on June 11th, and forever ended the remote-country-village status of Chestnut Hill.

In 1885 Reginald H. Chase died and the Rev. J. Andrew Harris was nominated. Mr. Harris was unable to serve and the vacancy was filled by the election of Dr. William Moss, M.D., in 1886.

In 1890 the Rev. Roger Owen died (January 10) and John C. Sims was elected to succeed him as president. Samuel Goodman became treasurer. John J. Macfarlane resigned and Walter E. Rex became secretary. Mr. James M. Earle was elected to the board and, in a meeting on October 13, 1890, he announced a gift from the Trinity Presbyterian Church which had held services in the Christian Hall Library building for eighteen months while their church building was being erected. This was the year that electricity first reached Chestnut Hill.

In 1891 the Rev. J. Andrews Harris was elected to membership on the board. During this year The Workingmen's Club of Chestnut Hill was disbanded and submitted to the board a communication which ended as follows:

> "The signers express the hope that the Library Association may be able to utilize the building and that the three bathtubs may continue to be freely used by the citizens of Chestnut Hill who are without such conveniences in their homes."

In 1893 Colonel Alexander Biddle and James T. Young resigned and Mr. John T. Morris and the Rev. William P. Merrill were elected to the board. John T. Morris and his sister, Lydia, lived at "Compton," the beautiful estate we now know as the Morris Arboretum.

In 1895 a special Committee of Electric Lighting reported that twenty-six, sixteen candlepower bulbs had been installed and were "entirely satisfactory." Current was supplied by the Germantown Electric Light Company.

Trolley cars first reached Chestnut Hill in 1896. The horse cars came to Gorgas Lane but the horses were too tired to reach Chestnut Hill.

On December 17, 1896, a meeting was called to consider the proposition of the Free Library of Philadelphia which offered to operate the library, assume

all expenses, and leave the fixed income of the Christian Hall Endowment Fund at the disposition of the managers of the Christian Hall Library Company. After the necessary discussions and consultations with the family of Henry J. Williams, this offer was accepted and the Free Library of Philadelphia took over the operation of the Christian Hall Library on February 1, 1897. Since then the library has been known as The Chestnut Hill Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

The creation of the Free Library of Philadelphia (abbreviated hereafter as the "F. L. of Phila.") seems to have been initiated by an ordinance passed by City Councils on December 21, 1891, allocating $15,000 to a Library Committee of the Board of Education. Prior to this, in 1887, the State Legislature passed an act directing all incorporated towns to use "all taxes on dogs for library purposes." The charter for the F. L. of Phila. was granted by Judge M. Russell Thayer on February 18, 1891 and, by 1895 when the State Legislature passed the General Library Act, the F. L. of Phila. was firmly established.

—For more detailed information on the creation of the F. L. of Phila. see:
William Pepper
By Francis Newton Thorpe
J. B. Lippincott Co., 1904

During 1898, before the F. L. of Phila. was ten years old, the circulation was 1,778,387 books, the largest circulation in the world—nine readers for every book.

Under the new regime, Mr. John Thomson was the Director of the F. L. of Phila. and Miss Abbie Wright the Librarian of the Chestnut Hill Branch.

In 1902, Andrew Carnegie gave $1,500,000 to the City of Philadelphia to be used for the erection of library buildings and, in 1905, the Board of Managers of the Christian Hall Library Company received a letter from Mr. Thomson outlining plans for the erection of a new library on the site of the Christian Hall Library. To use Carnegie funds for this purpose it was necessary to convey the Christian Hall real estate to the City of Philadelphia.

In 1906 Mr. A. B. Kerper resigned. He was one of the original "Corporators" and had served on the Board for 33 years. This same year the Christian Hall Library building was torn down and the present building was opened to the public in 1907. Strangely enough, there are no records of dedication ceremonies.

Since the building of the Carnegie Library the duties of our Board of Managers have consisted mainly in the allocation of the income from the Henry J. Williams Fund and the perpetuation of the Board by the election of new members to fill vacancies.

The resignation of Miss Laura A. Wenner was submitted to a meeting on December 17, 1941. She had served as an assistant librarian for 48 years.

On January 14, 1948, President William Paul, and Walter E. Rex, Jr., gave a dinner for the Board followed by a meeting at which the advisability of discontinuing the Board and turning over the administration of the H. J. Williams Fund to the F. L. of Phila. was discussed. The managers voted, unanimously, to continue as an independent group.

At a Board meeting on December 17, 1952, Mr. Emerson Greenaway, then the Director of the F. L. of Phila., suggested that the Board sponsor a series of lectures. This resulted in a series of 51 lectures that were given at the Chestnut Hill Branch from 1953 to 1969. The average attendance was 140 persons.

At the annual meeting of December 9, 1970, Mr. Keith Doms, then the new Director of the F. L. of Philadelphia, was made an ex officio member of the Board. He reported that Philadelphia City Councils had cut the library budget and that assistance would have to come from "The Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia" and similar organizations. During 1971, the "Friends of the Chestnut Hill Library" were organized to support our Chestnut Hill Branch. Mrs. Edwin L. Lame became president of this organization.

During 1972 the Board decided to sponsor a series of events to celebrate their 100th anniversary. A Centennial Committee was created and this article is a product of the said committee.

If you study the activities of a library you must conclude that, in a period of 100 years, a library is related to every type of human being and to everything the human race is capable of recording. There is nothing so intricately involved in the life of any community.

As 1973 draws to its close and we start on our second century we wish the Chestnut Hill Library Many Happy New Years.

* * *

Why Some Lines of Business Leave the Central Business District

Changing trade conditions and advancing real estate values cause certain lines of business to depart from the central business district, on Germantown and Chelten avenues.

The older generation remembers when stonecutters had their yards on Germantown avenue. Now none is left there, they having moved off to the neighborhood of the outlying cemeteries.

Plumbers used to have large store rooms on the main business street, with display windows filled with their wares. That is no longer considered necessary. The plumber finds that all he needs is an office and a shop.

Some years ago, when electricity came into general use in households, many stores for the sale of electrical appliances were opened. There are not so many now. Like the plumber, the electrician finds that if he has an office and a shop, he can get plenty of trade without the expense of maintaining a high-price store. Electricians who retained their stores, as a rule, have added various side lines, usually radio appliances.

—From a 1925 newspaper clipping

To Germany for the American Bicentennial

By Alice H. Finckh

AT THE invitation of the Cultural Affairs section of the Federal Republic of Germany's Foreign Office seven Americans connected with Bicentennial activities toured Germany late last (1974) summer. I was fortunate enough to be one of the seven because of my connection with the National Carl Schurz Association, which has been commissioned by the German government to create a travelling exhibition indicating the influence of German people upon the development of the United States, especially in the early beginnings. These people for over a century constituted the second largest ethnic group on the North American continent.

Our tour started with six days in Bonn and its surrounding cities—including Krefeld—and then on to Hamburg, Berlin and finally Frankfurt am Main. During our three weeks of travel we had a guide and an interpreter in each city, and a program worked out to show us historical documents and places of interest, as well as modern German life, and bring us in contact with German scholars also planning suitable commemorative projects. We were cordially entertained in several private homes, and had the opportunity to attend operas and symphony concerts, as well as museums, and to talk to farmers and townsfolk.

As an adopted Germantowner I was particularly interested in Krefeld, home of our first thirteen families, and found it to be a busy, attractive city of 230,000 with a history that goes back to Roman times. For centuries it has been known as the "silk city" where fine fabrics were woven, but it also has a rich tradition of medieval art and architecture. Mr. Harting, who was the leader of the group of Krefelders who visited Germantown a year ago, entertained us cordially in the city hall, and we had a delightful luncheon near an eleventh century castle, which we visited. Today when we think of those thirteen families whose names are chiseled on the monument in Vernon Park we unconsciously equate them and their original homes with quaintness, so I was amused to read that the German open golf championship matches were being held in Krefeld this year!

Many private as well as official Federal Republic groups are planning American Bicentennial commemorative events in Germany during the next two years. Movie films, TV documentaries—one or two on Carl Schurz, Secretary of the Interior—exhibitions of paintings, academic exchanges, lectures, seminars, a scholarly conference on the Revolution, books on dozens of American topics, exchanges between schools in German cities and their American namesakes (Berlin, New Hampshire), special calendars with American pictures, a monograph on the historical development of German-American relations, modern art exchanges, etc., etc., are in progress or being planned. The settlement of the American West is of particular interest to Germans, several of whose artists have left magnificent records of Indian life and customs, and their paintings will be gathered and shown.

An exhibit dealing with the Age of Jefferson and Franklin is being put together by the United States Government to be circulated in Germany, London, Paris and Warsaw by the United States.

As an example of the rich resources in the Federal Republic for persons interested in family history, immigration and early settlements I have translated the following brief article by Dr. Karl Scherer, head of Heimatstelle Pfalz:

I.

About a million people live in the southwestern part of Germany called the Palatinate, or in German, *Die Pfalz.* Scattered over half the world, however, there are at least ten times as many who consider themselves "Palatines": emigrants of our day as well as descendants of earlier emigrants. The Pfalz is one of the most prolific sources of emigration in all of Europe, for the stream of emigrants has never halted since the late seventeenth century. Indeed, during the eighteenth century there were times when emigration achieved such proportions that the forty-four ruling noblemen often had to decree a halt in order to stem the departure of their subjects. The very much split up land holdings owned by a family, and a lack of possibilities for earning a living were undoubtedly the main reasons for the exodus. Added to these were the burdensome taxes levied by the noblemen, compulsory labor, religious pressures, continued warfare, and finally but not unimportantly, the very enticing reports of still virgin areas available for colonization. Without doubt, the favored area for settlement was North America, especially New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. In Canada Palatine colonists usually chose Nova Scotia.

II.

Since the appearance of Daniel Haeberle's sensational study entitled *Auswanderung und Kolonie-*

gruendungen der Pfaelzer im 18. Jahr-hundert (*Emigration and the Founding of Colonies by Palatines in the 18th Century*), written in 1909 for the 200th anniversary of the mass emigration of 1709, and to commemorate the Palatine peasant General Nikolaus Herchheimer (Herkimer) the hero of Oriskany, August 6, 1777, the question remained unanswered as to who should deal with the demographic and social problems created in the Palatinate by the massive flux of persons. It was answered by the establishment in 1936 of a center called "Palatines at Home and Abroad" under the direction of Dr. Fritz Braun.

During World War II the painstakingly accumulated card catalog of emigrant families was largely destroyed, so that in 1953, when the Palatinate county association established "Heimatstelle Pfalz" the work had to begin all over again. Thanks to the assistance of many volunteers and scholarly institutions both at home and abroad the war losses were made up within a few years and catalogs dealing with Palatine emigrants and immigrants were built up which today consist of about 300,000 cards listing half a million references, starting with the sixteenth century and coming right down to the present. They are invaluable for demographic analysis, population studies, etc., and are available for use.

With scholarly thoroughness newly discovered source material and new publications are constantly being studied, evaluated and integrated into the material already on hand. Besides this, the Heimatstelle is building up an archive, a working library, and a mass of documentation, all three of which will provide valuable bases for the study of the family, settlement, economic and social history of southwest Germany, as well as the origin and destinations of immigrants and emigrants. Interim findings and individual research projects in this field have been published since 1956 in the following series: *Schriften zur Wanderungsgeschichte der Pfaelzer* (*Articles on the History of Palatinate Migrations*); *Beitraege zur Bevoelkerungsgeschichte der Pfaelzer* (*Contributions to the Population History of the Palatines*); *Pfaelzer in der weiten Welt* (*Palatines in the Wide World*). (See *Landeskundliche Vereinigungen und Einrichtungen Rheinland-Pfalz*, p. 46ff). Short articles and miscellanea have appeared since 1952 in *Mitteilungen zur Wanderungsgeschichte der Pfaelzer* (*Information on Palatine Migration History*) as a supplement to *Pfaelzisch-Rheinisch Familienkunde* (*Palatinate-Rheinisch Genealogical Information*). Church of England registries are also good sources for German ancestor names. Many stayed in England for some years in the 18th Century before coming to America. Every year 10,000 copies of *A Greeting from the Palatinate*, (*Pfaelzer Heimatgruss*) go to eighty-six countries.

On May 1, 1970 Dr. Braun relinquished his position after having reached the age of retirement. His successor is Karl Scherer of Kaiserslautern, who studied under Prof. Werner Conze, the Heidelberg historian. In the summer of 1972 the institute moved into a renovated building at Benzinoring 6, Kaiserslautern, giving the Palatinate its own center for population study, documentation and research comparable to the Swedish "Utwandrarnas Hus" in Vaxjo.

III.

Numbers 26, 32 and 34 of the series *Schriften zur Wanderungsgeschichte der Pfaelzer* comprise an American-German bilingual joint effort which makes clear what the Heimatstelle can contribute toward preparation for the 200th anniversary of American independence. (Its English title is: *Marriages Performed at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Lancaster, Pennsylvania 1748–1767*, by Fritz Braun and Frederick S. Weiser.) However, the initiative must always come from the American side. We can start to work only when facts, names and dates are supplied us. Then we are usually in a position to identify persons and supply their place of origin and travel route.

However, we certainly do not intend to confine ourselves to genealogical information and emigration. As our Palatine contribution to the American Bicentennial we plan for January or May of 1976 a scholarly symposium on the subject, "Palatinate—U.S.A., 1776–1976." Here German as well as American historians, Germanists and folklorists will have a chance to be heard. Thirty American students wish to take part in the meeting. Acceptances from consultants have also been received.

Next, we plan to publish the lectures given at this meeting in a single volume.

Third, the largely unknown diary written by Count Wilhelm von Forbach during the Revolutionary War has been translated from French into German. A critical edition is being prepared (Count Wilhelm von Forbach was commander of the French Foreign legion of Royal-Deuxponts, and distinguished himself at Yorktown). A comparison of his diary with that of Baron von Closen seems to hold great promise.

* * *

This brief paper by Dr. Scherer gives an idea of the interest shown among certain groups of Germans in our Bicentennial. Each state of the Federal Republic has been charged with promoting some sort of suitable endeavor.

Since plans for celebrations in our West and Midwest are concentrating on the origins and special contributions of the people who settled the vast plains, hills and mountains, our group of seven hailing from Texas, Washington, Nebraska, Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania found itself provided with both historical backgrounds and modern impressions of a part of the country which provided so many of the homesteaders, settlers, city builders, intellectuals and artists who helped make today's America.

An Introduction to Germantown Street Names

PART 2

By LAURA A. TAYLOR

In our Fall, 1974 issue—

Miss Taylor gave:
"The Name Changes at a Glance"
"Street Names for which no Information has been found"
"Classification of Sources of Germantown Street Names"
"Conclusions"
Bibliography— { Books
{ Articles—Maps and Atlases

Please continue "Dictionary Listing of Germantown Street Names Past and Present"

Concord Street—last covered in previous issue

See Map of Historic Germantown, designed by J. Riegel, Jr. on Page 28.

Coulter Street. "'Jno. Coulter, an East India Merchant, and a director of the United-States Bank,' owned one hundred acres east of Township Line Road and south 'from School House Lane to beyond Indian Queen Lane.' "[11]

This is the area now cut in half by Coulter Street.

Question and answer from a newspaper:

"How did Coulter Street in Germantown receive its name?"

"The Historic street honors the name of John Coulter, who owned a farm along what is now W. Coulter Street. The Coulter family is comparatively recent in Germantown History and much of the area was owned and settled by the Bockius family. Indeed Coulter Street was first known as Bockius Alley."[15]

"At 5400 Coulter Street crosses us. John Coulter was an East India merchant who owned a considerable property right here, or, as Townshend Ward puts it, 'from School House lane to beyond Indian Queen Lane.' "[16]

Cox's Lane (now Manheim Street). "At the southwest corner of Main and Manheim is an old fashioned inn with hipped roof . . . William K. Cox enlarged it and conducted it. The lane at the side has been called . . . Cox's."[17]

"There was a stage line running from a tavern on Dock street . . . to Cox's Tavern, on what is now the corner of Manheim street."[18]

Crout's Lane (now Woodlawn). "Armat's, afterward Bensell's meadow, was next on the north, extending to Laurel street which was Crout's lane."[19]

". . . which he bought of William Crout, who had a shop on Main Street, between Chelten Avenue and Armat street."[20]

This is exactly the location of Woodlawn Street (formerly Crout's Lane and Laurel Street), which is located on the east side of Germantown Avenue between Chelten Avenue and Armat Street.

Cumberland Street (now Kenyon). Cumberland Street (now Kenyon) is located one block east of Germantown Avenue off Armat Street. I believe, though I have no documentation, that this street is a sentimental transfer on the part of the Armat family who owned the land through which this street ran. Thomas Armat came to this country from Dale-Head Hall, Cumberland County, England. The parallel is obvious, and once again I found no family of the name of Cumberland in all my readings and perusals.

Danenhower's (or Danenhour's) Mill Road (now Wister Street). (See Armstrong.) Danenhower's Mill Road was exactly what it says, the road to Danenhower's Mill, probably on the Wingohocking Creek, in East Germantown.

Division Street (now Chew). Division Street was named for the function it served in the original Germantown settlement. The village was divided into (numbered) town lots toward Bristol (East), town lots toward Schuylkill (West), side lots toward Bristol and side lots toward Schuylkill. When a man bought a town lot (along Germantown Avenue) he got the corresponding side lot. Thus he could live amongst his neighbors, conveniently on the main street, and still have extensive farm land within a short walk. Chew Street was called Division Street because it divided the town lots from the side lots.

Duval Street. Duval Street was named for James Duval, who bought the estate of "Pomona Grove" and did extensive work on it. The estate was best known as "Duval's Place." "Pomona Grove" was located where the present Pomona Street is, one block east of Germantown Avenue at Duval Street, adjoining the upper burial ground.

Duy's Lane (now Wister Street). Duy's Tavern was at what is now 5031 Germantown Avenue [The house at 4515 Main street] "previously it had been for two generations occupied by the Duys who gave their name to the lane nearby."[21]

"This property [Duy's House] was situated on Main Street below Duy's Lane, now Wister Street." (From

an unidentified newspaper clipping, "Brief Sketch of the Famous Old Duy House," c. 1900.)

Engle Street (now Osceola). The Engle name appears often in old atlases, on the tracts of land they owned, but none of the land was near what is now Osceola Street.

Erringer Street. "At one time Western Manheim Street was the garden spot of Germantown, and it almost seems useless to refer to its individual parts . . . and gardener to J. L. Erringer, was Thomas Weiss . . ."[22]
On an 1895 (Bromley) atlas a large tract of land, where Erringer Street is now, belonged to J. L. Erringer.

Fernhill Street. Fernhill Street runs north/south near the east boundary of Fernhill Park, the location of Louis Clapier's estate, "Fernhill" (now torn down). "The estate originally extended from Pulaski Avenue, or 'Plank Road,' to Wissahickon Avenue, or Lamb Tavern Rd., and from Abbotsford Avenue to Nicetown Lane, or Ford Road."[23]
"Fernhill" was built by Louis Clapier, its gardens were done by Martin Baumann. At Clapier's death the estate was bought by Henry Pratt McKean.
(See also: Clapier, McKean.)

Fisher's Lane (now East Logan Street). Fisher's Lane is so named for the Fisher family.
"Joshua Fisher, before the Revolutionary War, had a line of packet ships between Philadelphia and London . . . His son Thomas is commemorated in Fisher's Lane."[24]
Thomas Fisher married Sarah Logan (a granddaughter of James Logan). The yellow fever drove them to Germantown, where they built a simple house on a small piece of "Stenton," which had come to them through Sarah.

"In 1795 . . . they built the house called Wakefield, named after the place of residence of his maternal ancestors [*sic*], Joshua Maud, in Yorkshire, England."[25]
For most of its life East Logan Street was called Fisher's Lane, and there is still a station on the Reading Railroad labeled "Fisher's La. Station." At one point the area around E. Logan Street (i.e., Fisher's Lane) was informally referred to as the Fisher's Lane mill village.

Gardenia Street. I could not find any information on this street name, but it was probably named for flowers of that kind in the neighborhood or was chosen arbitrarily, because no family named Gardenia settled in Germantown.

Garfield Street. I could not find any information on this street name, but I think it might possibly be named for President Garfield as there is a Jefferson, a Garfield, and a Hancock Street in Germantown and I found no reference to anyone with any of those names settling there.

Germantown Avenue. I think this one is self-explanatory. Germantown Avenue had been called the Great Road, Germantown Road, Main Street, and finally Germantown Avenue. I didn't find any reference to when the name changed from the popular "Main Street" to Germantown Avenue, but it was probably as Germantown became more a part of Philadelphia and less a separate entity.

Godfrey Street (now Knox). I found no documentation for the name of Godfrey at all. The only reference to a Godfrey that I found was to Thomas Godfrey of Germantown who invented the first quadrant, an instrument for taking the distances of stars.

Great Road—see Germantown Avenue.

Greene Street. There is much vehement disagreement on the name of Greene Street. The camp roughly divides into those who feel it was named for Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary War fame, and those who feel it was named after the meadowlike appearance of the area before the street was opened. "Green St. Ward attributes to the green sward before it was fully opened, and not to Green the hatter, nor Gen. Greene."[26]
"At the northwest corner of Manheim and Green Lane,—so named because of its rows of trees,—but now Greene street . . ."[27]
From an unidentified newspaper article of the late nineteenth century, "The New Street Names":
"It should be understood that this street was named after Gen. Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary War fame, and who took a prominent part in the Battle of Germantown—just as Wayne Avenue was named after General Wayne, Morris street after Gen. Morris. Lafayette after Gen. Lafayette, Pulaski Avenue after Count Pulaski, etc.
"We have incontrovertible evidence in the records of the old Germantown borough that Greene Street was intended to be named after General Greene, and that it was accordingly so done in honor of the old Revolutionary soldier."
but:
"A dense fog and the failure of General Greene to come in time, accounted for that confusion that turned what might have been a splendid conquest into unexpected defeat."[28]
It was my immediate assumption that it was named after General Greene, until my reading drew me further into this "Burning Issue." Obviously, Greene did not distinguish himself in the Battle of Germantown. It is my opinion that, as it was spelled Green to begin with (indeed, one of the old Friends meetings, the Green Street Meeting, is adamant in using that spelling), it was named for the natural beauty of the place, then it evolved into Greene. To kill two birds with one stone, all one had to do was put an "e" on the end of the name.

Haines Street. According to an 1871 atlas, John Haines owned a monstrous tract of land on Haines Street in East Germantown, on past Chew for quite a ways, and south from Haines street almost to Chelten.

The Haines family built "Wyck," around 1700, believed to be the oldest extant house in Germantown. Lafayette was entertained there on a visit to Philadelphia.

Hansberry (Handsberry, Hondsburg) Street. Joseph Handsberry lived at 4834 Germantown Avenue and had his shoe store at 4824. These numbers would now be 5234 and 5224, and Hansberry Street is located between the 5200 and 5300 blocks of Germantown Avenue. Originally it intersected Germantown Avenue, but now it goes no further east than Greene Street.

Harvey Street. Samuel Harvey was a Philadelphia hardware merchant who settled in Germantown about 1810 and took an active part in the township's affairs. He was president of the National Bank, president of the Turnpike Company, and first Burgess.

Heiskell Street. Heiskell Street is named for Colson Heiskell, who owned all the land around it, as far as I can tell from an 1889 atlas.

Herman Street. I could find no information on Herman Street. The only reference I found to a Herman, I found quite often. Reverend Frederich Herman was pastor of the German Reformed Church from 1790 to 1800 and a teacher at Germantown Academy. This would make him an important personage, but I could find nothing conclusive to tie him to Herman Street, as he lived on School House Lane west of Greene Street.

Homer Street. Homer Street marks a piece of land once owned by Matilda Homer (between Morton and Musgrave Streets off Washington Lane).

Jefferson Street (now Cherokee). (See Garfield). During the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, when the seats of government of both the United States and the State of Pennsylvania moved to Germantown, Thomas Jefferson lived in the J. F. Watson house in Germantown.

Johnson Street. Johnson Street carries on the name of the Johnson family, descendants of Dirck Jonsen, one of the thirteen original settlers from Crefeld, Germany. The Johnsons built the "Johnson House" at Washington Lane and Germantown Avenue and the impressive mansion "Upsala" between Johnson and Upsal streets on Germantown Avenue. They, along with the Armats, Logans, Wisters, Fishers, etc., were staunch, upright middle-class citizens; their names appear on all civic-minded petitions and contribution lists, and they all intermarried and were quite prolific.
(See also: Upsala, Norton.)

Keyser Street. The Keyser family were contributing citizens all through Germantown history. A descendant, Dr. Naaman H. Keyser, was a noted chronicler of Germantown history and an ardent Germantownophile. The Keysers owned land in exactly the other end (north) of Germantown from where Keyser Street is, but I feel sure it is named in honor of them. (I am sure that if one researched long enough one could find that one Keyser sometime lived there and the name stuck because of his importance to the community.) They are descendants of Dirck Keyser, whose name appeared on an inventory of town lots as early as 1714.

Knox Street. I have found no family named Knox so I would assume that Knox Street is named in honor of General Knox of the Revolutionary War who took an active part in the Battle of Germantown.

Lafayette Street (now West Haines). I have no doubt that Lafayette Street is named after General Lafayette, just as every "Lafayette" Street in America, I'm sure, is. West Haines Street was probably chosen for this honor because Reuben Haines' house "Wyck," which Lafayette Street runs by, is famous for having hosted Lafayette on this trip to Germantown.

Lamb-Tavern Road (now Wissahickon). This was called for the Lamb Tavern, one of a collection of taverns and inns along the Wissahickon that were popular rendezvous for carriage and sledding parties from Philadelphia. The Lamb Tavern was one of the Wissahickon taverns serving catfish and waffle dinners.

Laurel Street (now Woodlawn). I could find no specific information on Laurel Street, but I found several references to Laurel bushes in Germantown. More than once I've seen the infant Germantown Avenue referred to as "an Indian path beaten through laurel bushes," and I found several references in Jellett, "Gardens and Gardeners in Germantown" to the laurels in "our woods."

Laurens Street. Jan Laurens was a German settler from Frankfort who officially purchased 535 acres in Germantown on May 2, 1684. Therefore they are ancient citizens of Germantown and it is fitting that they should be immortalized. However, I have no definite tie-in with Laurens Street and the Laurens family.

Le Brun Street (now McCallum). At the last minute I found a reference to John Le Brun, a partner in the Frankfort Land Company, but this is all I found.

Lehman Street. The Lehmans have been influential inhabitants of Germantown for generations. Christian Lehman came to Germantown in 1731 with his father Godfryd and worked as a land surveyor and a map maker. He was engaged in the nursery business and is said to have been the first to plant English walnut trees in Germantown. The Lehmans owned several pieces of land within a few blocks of Lehman Street, but undoubtedly there was some closer connection

than that. Although I could find no absolute documentation, I feel sure that the street is named for this family or a member of it.

Lensen Street. I could find no information except that Jan Lensen was one of the original 13 settlers of Germantown.

Lincoln Drive. Personally I feel this very recent addition of Germantown to be named after Abraham Lincoln, because I found no reference to a family of that name in Germantown.

Little Wayne Street (now Keyser). Little Wayne Street was a tiny block-long street just barely east of the mighty Wayne Avenue.

Locust Street. Locust Street must be either a carry-over from Philadelphia by a family that moved, an arbitrary street name, or named for locust trees. It is not a family name.

Logan Street. Logan Street I am more than sure is named for James Logan and his descendants.
James Logan, master of "Stenton," was perhaps the most important man in early Philadelphia history. He was born in Ireland in 1674, a descendant of the Baron of Restalrig. In the spring of 1699 he accompanied William Penn to Pennsylvania as secretary, and when Penn returned to England he left Logan in charge of the Province. For half a century he was a leader in provincial affairs, holding the posts of Commissioner of Property, Surveyor General, Recorder, President Judge of Common Pleas, Chief Justice, President of the Council, Governor of the Colony and Mayor of Philadelphia. He was particularly good at managing Indian affairs (see Wingohocking; see also "Stenton").

(West) Louden Street (now Rockland). This street was named, I am sure, for "Loudoun," Thomas Wright's pillared mansion a block away. (See also: Armat.)

Luken's Mill Road (now Church Lane). One of the owners of the mill at the foot of Church Lane that for so many years gave it the name of Mill Road.

Magnolia Street. Once again I must guess that Magnolia Street is either an arbitrary street name or that some of the flowering magnolia trees so common in the Philadelphia area grew along this street. Magnolia Street is one of a number of streets that, in the late nineteenth century, were formed of a conglomerate of tiny variously-named streets that were not connected but formed a fairly straight north-south broken line through the town. When they were thrown together the whole street was given the name of one of the constituent streets.

Main Street (now Germantown Avenue). The term "Main Street" was used in speaking and writing at least during the nineteenth century, whereas I seldom saw it on a map, where it was generally labeled Germantown Avenue.

Manheim Street. "We retrace to Bockius Lane, now known as Manheim Street, and so named by Jacques Marie Roset, 'in honor of a German town whose inhabitants he admired.' "[29]
or perhaps a better story:
"Jacques Marie Roset called it Manheim Street in honor of the beauty of the ladies of Manheim, in Germany."[30]

Market Street (now Chelten). Chelten Avenue was laid out as Market Street, the planners realizing that the crossroads would become a center of commercial activity, but the name did not stick.

McCallum Street. McCallum Street was very hard to find any reference to. I never did determine conclusively who it was named for, but the only man named McCallum who I came across was Hugh McCallum, owner of the Glen Echo Carpet Mills. He must have been well-to-do, as there were two mills, one in Mt. Airy and one near Wayne Junction. Some men named McCallum appear on parade and committee lists at a much later date than the colonial or Revolutionary times—after the Civil War, in fact. The McCallums must have represented nineteenth century Germantown rather than eighteenth.

McKean Avenue. I found two stories for the name of McKean Avenue. The first I found in a newspaper article of August 31, 1950 (from, I believe, the Germantown Courier, as I had only the initials G. C. to work with):
"McKean Avenue . . . bears the name of Thomas McKean, a prominent figure of the Revolutionary period. It leads into Fernhill Park which in turn bears the name of McKean's estate . . . McKean was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He became president of the Continental Congress . . . Later he was successively Chief Justice and Governor of Pennsylvania." I read earlier than this, however, that Henry Pratt McKean bought "Fernhill" at Louis Clapier's death in 1838; and, as all the old maps have H. P. McKean written across the area, I also think it was Henry Pratt McKean and not Thomas McKean who was second master of "Fernhill."

McMahon Street. According to an old map, a David McMahon owned a large tract of land at Cedar Lane and Chelten Avenue, just where Underhill (now McMahon), if it had crossed Chelten Avenue, would have cut in half.

Mechanic Street. I found no information, but I came across several references to so-and-so was a good mechanic, and the first meeting of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics met at the Concord School House around 1850. Perhaps a mechanic or a group of mechanics lived on Ployd Street (now Mechanic Street) so the name changed.

Mechlin Street (now Clapier). "Adjoining Loudoun was "Tolands" . . . northward adjoining Tolands, is Mechlins . . ."[31]

This corresponds approximately to where Clapier Street (then Mechlin) adjoins Germantown Avenue. "This [E. Clapier Street] was originally called Mechlin Street. It was opened through the Wagner property and was probably named Mechlin after William Wagner's mother, who was a Mechlin."[32]

Mehl Street (now E. Seymour). Either Martin or William Mehl (sources differ) lived in the house at 4821 Germantown Avenue and the family held it from 1763 to 1865. This is a good two blocks from East Seymour Street, but they were the only Mehls in the area.

Mercer Street (now Rubicam). The only reference I found to a Mercer (although I'm sure this was due to lack of time) was in a city directory of 1915 that listed a

Mercer, Albert H., clk [clerk?], 433 W. Bringhurst Since Rubicam Street is in East Germantown, obviously I haven't found documentation for the name Mercer.

Methodist Lane (now East Haines). My assumption was that East Haines Street had been called Methodist Lane for the Methodist church a block away at Germantown and High Street, established in 1796. However, I have come to realize that invariably there have to be closer associations than a block away when it comes to street names. Then I came across the following quotation:
"On the lower side of Haines Street, near Germantown Avenue, stood a quaint old house, originally the First Methodist Church of Germantown . . ."[33]

Mill Road (now Church Lane). Mill Road was a principal crossroads of Germantown leading to the mills on Wingohocking Creek in East Germantown.

Miller Street (now Sheldon). "Mathias R. Miller owned considerable property in the vicinity of what is now called Miller Street."[34]
"The members of the various branches of the Miller family, all closely related, were at one time very numerous in lower Germantown . . . As a rule, the Miller descendants held to the Presbyterian faith. In the War of the Rebellion, numerous members of the family took part upon the Union side, in one capacity or another."[35]

Milne Street. On the 1895 atlas, just east of "Fernhill" (the H. Pratt McKean estate) is a tract of land belonging to Francis F. Milne. Milne Street is located just east of Fernhill Park in West Germantown.

Morris Street. There are so many Morrises famous in Germantown and Philadelphia history that I can't even begin to tackle the problem of deciding which one Morris Street is named after.

Moylan Street. ". . . and among the officers present [at the Battle of Germantown] *whose names have gained a high place in American history* were Generals Greene, Knox . . . Wayne . . . Moylan . . . and Nash [my italics]."[36]
This is the only reference to anyone by the name of Moylan that I found, so it probably is named after the Revolutionary soldier.

Musgrave Street. The Lieut.-Col. Musgrave held the Chew mansion, Cliveden, as a fort with a detachment of British soldiers and successfully resisted the American attack, thereby winning the Battle of Germantown. (See also: Cliveden.)

Nash Lane. ". . . and among the officers present [at the Battle of Germantown] *whose names have gained a high place in American history* were Generals Greene, Knox . . . Wayne . . . Moylan . . . and Mash [my italics]."[37]
This is the only reference to anyone named Nash that I came across.

Newhall Street. ". . . beyond Betton's [Manheim and Greene] is Thomas A. Newhall's place."[38]
"Farther 'back the lane', as western Manheim Street was usually referred to, were the beautiful grounds and gardens of Thomas A. Newhall . . ."[39]
Thomas A. Newhall, if one were given to such labeling, could be titled "The Father of Germantown Cricket." His meadow sheltered the fledgling Germantown Cricket Club until it obtained a permanent home.

Norton Street (now West Cliveden). Norton Street, on an old atlas, is shown bifurcating the estate of Norton Johnson, near "Upsala."

Osceola Street. I had given up on this one when, at the eleventh hour, in an old atlas, I chanced upon the Oceola Mills located exactly where Oscecla Street now is.

Pastorious Street. I was secure in my assumption that finally they had simply honored the founder of Germantown in a street. Pastorious is so important to Germantown that Germantown Avenue should be called Pastorious Street, yet the name clings only to a tiny broken street, hardly wider than an alley. I thought this a dreadful affront to his name, but I was further shocked when I saw on an old map that all the land along Pastorious Street was owned by Washington Pastorious, so that it is possible the street was not named for Franz Daniel Pastorious at all but for a land-holding descendant.

Penn Street. I feel it is safe to guess that this street was named after William Penn. The change from Shoemaker's Lane to Penn Street was made by the city in the late nineteenth century in a wholesale attempt to avoid repetition of street names throughout the city.

Pickius' Lane. I could not find any information on this street name, but the Pickius family were early settlers in Germantown.

Plank Road (now Pulaski Avenue). The only reference to Plank Road that I found follows. I am

not definitely sure it refers to the present Pulaski Avenue, but as it speaks to widening Wayne Avenue, and since Pulaski runs parallel and next to Wayne for almost its entire length, there must be some connection.
From the Germantown Telegraph of Wednesday, September 7, 1853:
"The Plank Road, from this borough to the city . . . It will open through our town, too, at least as far as the road shall extend, Wayne Street to its full width of eighty feet [*sic*]."

Ployd Street (now Mechanic). The Ployds were a well-liked family living in Germantown. The only reference I found that might tie them with Ployd Street was that Jacob Ployd bought a large piece of land on E. Haines Street (Mechanic Street is located between Haines and High Streets) and cut it up into house lots and sold it at a good profit.

Pomona Street. "Pomona Grove" estate consisted of seven acres lying on the east side of Germantown Avenue between Washington Lane and the Upper Burial Ground. It was owned during the Revolutionary War by Christopher Huber, passed to the Shoemaker family and then to Thomas Forrest in 1788, and from him to James Duval, who improved and beautified the house and gave the estate the name of Pomona Grove. Pomona Street is located one block east of Germantown Avenue between Washington Lane and Duval Street.

Poor House Lane (now West Rittenhouse). Poor House Lane was so called for the Borough Almshouse that stood on this street, just east of McCallum Street.

Potterton Hts. Potterton Hts. has me stumped. I thought at first, after seeing on a nineteenth century atlas that the area was heavily built up, that it might be a mill village, "Potter-town," as there was a spinning mill nearby named "Seymour and Potter." However, there was also a storekeeper named Potterton, and I found other references to men named Potterton, for example:
"The present building was erected by Edward Potterton."[40]
Therefore, obviously, I do not have a definition for Potterton Hts.

Price Street. Price Street was one of the few easy ones:
"Price Street is named for Eli K. Price."[41]
"Price Street is named for Eli K. Price."[42]
"Price Street cut the land of the late Eli K. Price and bears his name."[43]
Eli K. Price was a distinguished lawyer and wrote, at the request of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, *The History of the Consolidation of the City of Philadelphia.*

Pulaski Avenue. Since, once again, I come across no family by the name of Pulaski in Germantown history, and as Count Pulaski is one of the best loved of Revolutionary War heroes, I feel it safe to assume that the street honors him. (See "Greene" for quotation.)

Queen Lane. Queen Lane is one of the oldest crossroads in Germantown. It began life as the Schuylkill Ferry Road which led to Fort St. Davids (now the Falls of Schuylkill) where there was a ferry. It was later known as Indian Queen Lane, after the hotel (or tavern) The Indian Queen that stood at its junction with Main Street. In the 1894 juggling of street names by the city it was officially changed to Queen Lane, although Hotchkin tells us that moderns had affected to call it Queen Lane for some time. There still exists an Indian Queen Lane on the Roxborough side of the Schuylkill. The tavern was owned by Michael Riter and the land was called Riter's Lane by some, but that name never stuck.

Reger Street. The only reference I could find to anyone named Reger was the oft-repeated statement that Dorothy Reger laid the cornerstone of the First Methodist Church in Germantown.

Riter's Lane (now Queen Lane). Michael Riter was the proprietor of the Indian Queen Tavern at Queen Lane. (See also: Queen Lane.)

Rittenhouse Street. The Rittenhouse family came to Germantown in 1689 from Germany. Their German name is variously spelled Ruettinghaus, Rittinghuysen, Rittinhusius, Ritterhausen, Rittinghausen, etc. William Rittenhouse established the first paper mill in the colonies on a branch of the Wissahickon called Monoshone Creek or later Paper Mill Run. He was the first pastor of the Mennonite Meeting in Germantown.
William Rittenhouse was the great-grandfather of David Rittenhouse, the famous astronomer and statesman. He was, variously, the President of the American Philosophical Society, Treasurer of Pennsylvania, and Director of the Mint.
David Rittenhouse was born in a tiny whitewashed stone house at Rittenhouse Street and Lincoln Drive, in a cluster of five similar buildings called "Rittenhouse-town," the site of the original paper mill.
Rittenhouse Street was built from the paper mill to Germantown Avenue.

Roop's Lane (now Harvey Street). "Harvey Street was called Roop's lane from the Roop family who lived on it."[44]

Ross Street. Ross Street marks the small lot owned by the Ross family. This family was the nucleus of one of the greatest kidnapping tragedies of American history. The Rosses were the victims of the first kidnapping of a child for ransom in U.S. history, in 1784. Their two young sons, Charley, 4, and Walter, 6, were offered firecrackers by two men in a buggy.

They got in with the men and the men drove to the store and sent the older boy in to buy the firecrackers. When he returned they were gone, having taken Charley with them. The kidnappers demanded $20,000 but didn't show up to collect it the two times a delivery was arranged. A total of 24 letters were sent to the Rosses. Charley's father, a Philadelphia businessman, suffered a nervous breakdown. After the 24th letter and the second futile attempt on the part of Mrs. Ross to deliver the money, they received no more communications. Intensive police work narrowed the suspects down to two, but they couldn't be apprehended. Several months later the suspects were shot in a robbery attempt on Long Island. One was killed instantly, the other confessed to the kidnapping on his death bed but disavowed any knowledge of the child's fate, claiming that his dead partner had taken care of that. The mystery was never solved; the child, dead or alive, was never found. This was the only kidnapping of its kind until the kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh, Jr., in the 1930's.

Royal Street. The Royal family owned three properties at about 4900 to 5000 Germantown Avenue, the block parallel to Royal Street, which is located one block west of Germantown Avenue.

Rubicam Street. "It is worthy of being added . . . that the Rubicam family are commemorated in the name of an avenue in Germantown, and a station on the Newtown Railway."[45]

Schaeffer Street (now Morton). "While the British were here, the chaplains of the Hessians preached in the German churches, and two remained in this country after the war. One of them, the Rev. [*sic*] Mr. Schaffer, took the Lutheran Church in Germantown."[46]
This would make Reverend Schaffer an important person in the community; in addition I saw many pieces of land belonging to Reverend Schaffer and other Schaffers but none where Schaeffer Street is. Since the names are also spelled differently, it is inconclusive.

School House Lane. School House Lane was first known as Robeson's Mill Road. It followed an ancient Indian trail that led from the Wingohocking to the Wissahickon Creeks, later known as Ashmead's Lane, then Bensell's Lane, and finally School House Lane. It is named for the Germantown Academy, built in 1760 on land bought from the Bringhursts for £125.

Schuylkill Ferry Road. This was the first name of Queen Lane, as it led from Germantown Avenue to the ferry across the Schuylkill at the Falls.

Seymour Street. The only time I found the name of Seymour was on the spinning mills of Seymour and Potter in East Germantown, not on Seymour Street, so I can't define this one.

Shedaker Street. In a last-ditch attempt to define some of my remaining terms I consulted Boyd's City Directory for 1915 and I found the following references for Shedaker:
Shedaker

Chas A (Shedakers Shirt Shop) & pres.
Chas E. Shedaker and Sons
514 Manheim St.

Chas E (Shedakers Shirt Shop) & v-pres
Chas E Shedaker and Sons
510 W. Coulter Gtn

Jas J (Shedakers Shirt Shop) & sec & treas
Chas E Shedaker and Sons
510 W Coulter Gtn

I don't know how pertinent this is, but at least it shows that Shedakers lived in South Germantown, where Shedaker Street is located; but I could find nothing definite.

Shoemaker's Lane (now East Penn and Rubicam). "Two of the single ones [Lorain girls] kept a school in the old Shoemaker house, at Shoemacker's lane . . ." (from a newspaper article of the late nineteenth century, "Old Lorain House").
Isaac Shumacher came with his mother, Sarah, a widow, and several siblings, from Kreisheim, in the Palatinate (Germany) on 20 March, 1686. He died in 1732 and his son Benjamin and grandson Samuel were mayors of Philadelphia.
The Shoemakers owned several properties up and down what is now East Penn Street and the north end of Rubicam Street. The street was known as Shoemaker's Lane until almost this century.

Spring Alley (now Portico)
"Spring Alley is named for a spring on it."[47]
The following is from a newspaper article entitled "Spring Alley Seventy Years Ago" dated August 25, 1917:
"Spring Alley, running from Main Street to 'Green Lane' and the original Manheim Spring Alley Street, now paved from Manheim Street to West Seymour street, formed a square like a workman's level. At the elbow was located the famous Spring Alley Spring, which for many years was curbed with masonry. Residents for squares around came with buckets and barrels to get their supply of delicious spring water from Spring Alley . . ."
"Spring Alley" supplied the name for that area of Germantown, being north of Schmiersburg (or Smearsburg) which centered around Neglee's Hill ("Loudoun") and south of the Fisher's Lane mill village.
"Among the manufacturing done in Spring Alley was that of hosiery and weaving, button making and glovemaking . . . There also were located the 'Spanish and Half-Spanish' cigar-making place of William Buckius, the skindressing and morocco works of

Theophilus Buckius, dye works and wagon works, also Royal Brothers' famous abbatoir and rendering works . . ."

Stenton Avenue. Stenton Avenue was named for James Logan's country seat, "Stenton," between Nicetown and Germantown, near Wayne Junction. "Stenton" was one of the earliest country seats around Philadelphia, built in 1728 by James Logan, secretary and attorney to William Penn (see Logan). It was here at Stenton that James Logan spent his declining years, amid the finest collection of books of any private library in Colonial America. These books, the Loganian Library, were presented to the City of Philadelphia by Logan at his death. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington are the best known of the countless learned and influential gentlemen who were entertained at "Stenton." It was at Stenton, as legend has it, that Thomas Godfrey, a glazier, accidentally discovered the scientific principle of the quadrant and, on the advice of James Logan, pursued the project and built the first quadrant (see Godfrey).

Stokes Street. The Stokes family were important Germantown citizens. The location of Stokes Street is on land owned by John Stokes in East Germantown.

Townshend's Mill Road. This was the first name of Church Lane. It led to Robert Townshend's mill on Wingohocking Creek.

Tulpehocken Street (or Tulpohocken)—my street in Germantown. "The name of this street is said to have been given in honor of an Indian chief."[48]
The word "Tulpewihacki" (Delaware-Lenni-Lenape) means "land of turtles," which seems a strange name for an Indian chief.

Upsal Street. The obvious assumption when it comes to Upsal Street is that it is named after "Upsala," the Johnson mansion at Upsal and Germantown. However, this is wrong. If anything, "Upsala" is named after Upsal Street.
"The coincidence of the connection of the Benzell family with Upsal [Sweden] and the naming of the street along the side of this property as Upsal Street, suggest the thought that the street was so named because of that connection."[49]
The author is speaking of the Billmeyer House at Upsal and Germantown Avenue built by George Bensell, son of Conrad Benzell who emigrated from Sweden in the early eighteenth century. Conrad's father and two of his brothers held the position of Archbishop of Upsal, the principal See of the Swedish Lutheran Church.
"Upsala" was built in 1798, over seventy years after the Billmeyer House, with its strong connection with Upsal, Sweden. I *gather* that the street was referred to as Upsal Street long before "Upsala" was built.

Wade Street. The estate of E. Wade was located approximately where Wade Street is now.

Wakefield Street. "Wakefield" was the home of Thomas and Sarah Logan Fisher. The location of the estate is not within the boundaries of my area, but the street named for it is. The building was demolished many years ago, but the name is immortalized in a street name and the Wakefield Presbyterian Church. (See Fisher's Lane.)

Walnut Lane. Walnut Lane is purportedly named for either one or two black walnut trees that stood in the middle of the street about 75 yards west of Germantown Avenue.

Washington Lane. Washington Lane was named for the Washington Inn that stood at the southeast corner of Germantown Avenue and Washington Lane. The Washington Inn, in turn, was so named because it is popularly believed that Washington Lane (or Abington Road as it was called) was the route Washington took to and from the Battle of Germantown.

Wayne Avenue. ". . . and among the officers present [at the Battle of Germantown] *whose names have gained a high place in American history* were Generals Greene, Knox . . . Wayne . . . Moylan . . . and Nash [my italics]."[50]
"It is remarkable how Germantown delights in W's in her stations . . . Westmorelandand Wissahickon, on the Pennsylvania line, and *Wayne* [my italics], Wister, Wingohocking, Walnut Lane and Wyndmor on the Reading, strain the printer's font of type and show a penchant for one letter. The mixture of . . . and an *American general* [my italics] is, however, in good taste, and a help to perpetuate history."[51]

Wingohocking Street. "The Indian chief, Wingohocking, loved James Logan, and asked him to change names with him. Logan replied that the Indian might have his name but that, instead of accepting the Indian's, he would give it to the creek which ran through his estate; so that became Wingohocking Creek, though it was often called Logan's run."[52]

Wissahickon Avenue. The name is of Delaware (Lenni-Lenape) Indian origin, either from "Wisamickon"—Catfish Creek
or
"Wisaucksickan"—"yellow-colored stream"
Probably "Catfish Creek" is the original meaning, because of the abundance of catfish it once supplied for Philadelphia's popular catfish and waffle dinners (see Lamb-Tavern Road).
The Wissahickon is crossed over and over by some of the country's earliest and most ambitious bridges. The Wissahickon is dotted with reminders of an earlier time. At Rittenhouse Street and Lincoln Drive is a cluster of tiny stone buildings, the site of the first paper mill in the colonies and birthplace, in 1707, of David Rittenhouse, the famous astronomer, scholar, and statesman. A statue of William Penn rubs shoulders with one of an Indian chief, and these

monuments are augmented by a tribute to Mom Rinker, a clever and ardent patriot. If one follows Hermit's Lane (not in my area) along the creek for awhile one can visit the cave in which Johann Kelpius and a handful of Pietist followers from Germantown established the "Society of the Woman of the Wilderness." They lived in caves and practiced and taught magic, divining and healing. They cast horoscopes and practiced alchemy. Kelpius developed the first botanical garden in what is now the United States. The group disintegrated after Kelpius' untimely death at 35 of exposure-aggravated tuberculosis.

The Wissahickon's great and varied beauty, and the Germantowner's love for his valley, are aptly summed up in this poem by Philadelphia poet Tom Daly:

There earliest stirred the feet of spring,
There summer dreamed on drowsy wing,
And autumn's glories longest cling
Along the Wissahickon.

Wister Street. The Wister and Wistar families are descendants of two brothers, Caspar and John Wüster, who emigrated to Philadelphia from Hilspach, Germany, where their father was Forester to the Prince Palatinate. The brothers wanted to get ahead so they decided to try Penn's colony. Caspar Wüster (naturalized to Wistar) came in 1717. He soon found work making buttons and sometime later went into this business for himself. He engaged and was successful in mercantile trade; he is included in a list of Principal Merchants of the City in 1726. He married Catherine Jansen (soon to be changed to Johnson), whose maternal grandfather was the wealthy landowner Hans Millan who erected "Wyck," later the Haines homestead, in 1700.

John Wüster (naturalized to Wister) joined his brother in 1727. He also prospered in business undertakings and bought up much land in Germantown, including the wooded tract called Wister's Woods and one on Shoemaker's Lane (E. Penn St.) and Germantown Avenue where he built, in 1744, his mansion of Grumblethorpe.

Wister Street is so named because it led from Wister's Woods to Germantown Avenue.

The Wister family also built the stately mansion "Vernon" just north of Chelten Avenue.

During the Revolutionary War the British General Agnew occupied Grumblethorpe as his headquarters, and it was here, after being wounded by a sniper, he died. Some of the floorboards are still stained with his blood.

Owen Wister, author of *The Virginian* was one of the Germantown Wisters. He was born on July 14, 1860, at 5203–5 Germantown Avenue.

Wisteria Street (now Shedaker). Since this street runs into Wister's Woods, it could be named either for the flower or, conceivably, it could be a play on words with the name Wister.

Wynne Street (now Duncannon). Wynne Street runs near Wister's Woods and Wynne is a Wister family name, as in William Wynne Wister. The name of Wynne came into the Wister family through Mary Wynne, daughter of Dr. Thomas Wynne of Wales, who came over with William Penn in the "Welcome" in 1682, and married a Wister. Several generations later the name Wynne began to figure prominently in Wister family names.

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When I reflect, as I frequently do, upon the felicity I have enjoyed, I sometimes say to myself that, were the offer made me, I would engage to run again, from beginning to end, the same career of life. All I would ask, should be the privilege of an author, to correct in a second edition, certain errors of the first.

Benjamin Franklin.

Germantown Historical Society Hosts 18th Cent. Seminar

What was life like for children in eighteenth century Germantown? In September our Society set up a five week seminar on colonial life, in an attempt to answer this question for the modern day school child. As in every experiment in the beginning, funds were non-existent, so the participants were limited to students from only two schools, Jenks in Chestnut Hill and Rowen in Germantown. The children involved belonged to the new Academically Talented Program—grades 4 to 6.

Beginning with colonial textiles, the children studied foods, childhood and education, everyday life, religion, occupations, and ended the program with discussions on art and architecture. Each week was devoted to one aspect of the study, and the children were given problems to prepare for the following meeting. In one case, they made authentic Germantown recipes, another time they tried dyeing cloth and making candles. Participating local museums lent an air of authenticity to the program—the children went to Grumblethorpe for the lesson on cooking, to the Costume Museum for one on textiles, on to the Toy Museum and the Concord Schoolhouse for discussions on childhood and education, then to the Mennonite Meeting House for religion, and finally to Deshler-Morris for a program concerning the fine arts. These represent only a few of the priceless buildings we could use for study in Germantown. This year (in the pilot program) we were limited by time and lack of money. Judging from the children's reaction, the experiment was a success.

It is our feeling children are the most valuable resource we have. An understanding by them of history, and a grasp of the continuity of American life is most important. We must educate young people to let them see the past is never dead, but relived constantly.

It is our hope the program can be expanded next Fall to include schools from the entire city. One of the long-term goals of the project is that the children will be able to participate in activities in eighteenth century settings, (i.e., making candles, weaving, cooking), or taking part in an old fashioned schoolday, complete with lessons and tin bucket lunches.

If any of the Germantown museums would like to be included in next year's greatly expanded colonial seminar, please contact:

Dolores Dyson Engle
Germantown Historical Society Museum
5214 Germantown Avenue
VI 4-0514

Preparations are being made now. We should like to have two or three concurrent programs to present to the schools offering teachers several options.

NOTE: The Museum and Von Trott Annex are closed at present. After March 1st, the Museum will be open. The opening of the Von Trott Annex will be announced. Please come to see us.

A Map of
Historic Germantown

Designed by J. Riegel, Jr.

This detailed map, elaborated with numerous sketches, shows the locations of streets, historic buildings, churches, etc. It is replete with data concerning local people, places, and events.

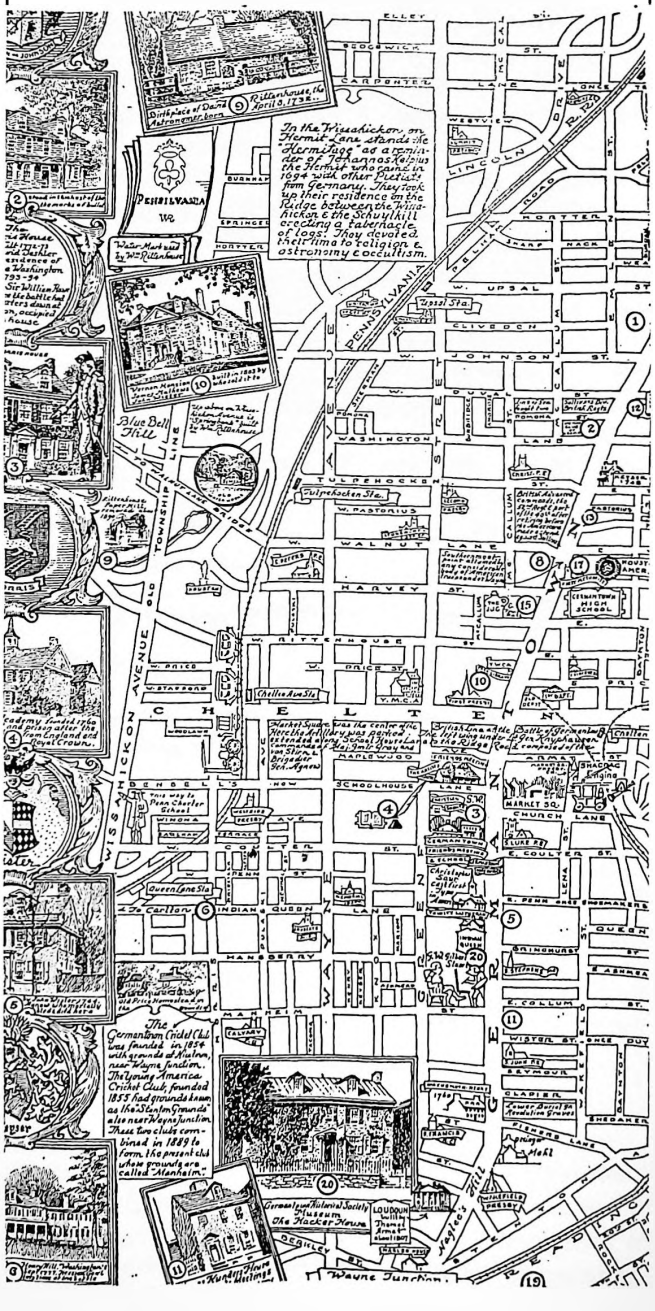
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