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Published Quarterly
GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5 . . . Number 3 September 1953

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AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The Germantown Historical Society is dedicated to the fostering of the cultural traditions of Germantown, the preservation of its historic landmarks, and the maintenance of the Society's Museum of historic relics.

A membership in the Society helps to further these aims. It also entitles members to attend the interesting series of monthly lectures and to receive the GERMANTOWN CRIER which is published quarterly.

Subscription to the CRIER for non-members is $1.00.

ANNUAL TOUR OF THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1953

Tour will visit historic towns of Greenwich, Bacons Neck, Hancocks Bridge, etc., in Southern New Jersey.

Buses will depart from 5214 Germantown Avenue at 10:00 A.M., and return there at 6:00 P.M. Bring own box lunch. Greenwich Historical Society will serve tea and coffee. Members may bring guests. Charge is $3.00 per person.

Reservations to determine number of buses must be made with check, on or before October 2, 1953 with

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Membership to appear once a year. Names of new members in each issue.

This Month's Cover.

Fireplace Kitchen of the King of Prussia Inn. One of a series of photographs given to the Historical Society by Charles F. Jenkins in 1939

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The lecture program of the Germantown Historical Society will be devoted this season to different aspects of collecting. Thus the series of talks will be related and have a coherence which, it is hoped, will prove instructive as well as enjoyable to the Membership.

Three of the five lectures have been arranged, and the two spring talks will be announced in the December issue of the GERMANTOWN CRIER. The lectures will all take place on Thursdays at Vernon at 8 P.M. The dates and subjects are:

October 22—Annual Meeting
November 19
Collecting Antiques as Seen by a United States Customs Examiner by Eman S. Franks
January 21
Going, Going, Gone! Antiques in the Auction Room by Edmund B. Brickley
February 18
Collecting Wedgwood by Harry Buten
March 18—to be announced
April 18—to be announced

Facts about the speakers:

Eman S. Franks was Chief Examiner of Antiques for the Port of Philadelphia for some forty years. He is retired and is now engaged in collecting and dealing in antiques. He is considered one of the best authorities in his field.

Edmund B. Brickley has been connected with the old firm of Samuel T. Freeman and Company for over forty years. His knowledge of the market is equalled by few in his profession. Mr. Brickley still conducts all of the principal sales for his firm.

Harry M. Buten is a member of the firm of M. Buten and Sons, manufacturers and dealers in paints. Mr. Buten has assembled a choice collection of Wedgwood and is an expert in this ware. He is an advanced philatelist, a member of the Board of the National Philatelic Museum, and is active in many artistic and civic enterprises in our City.

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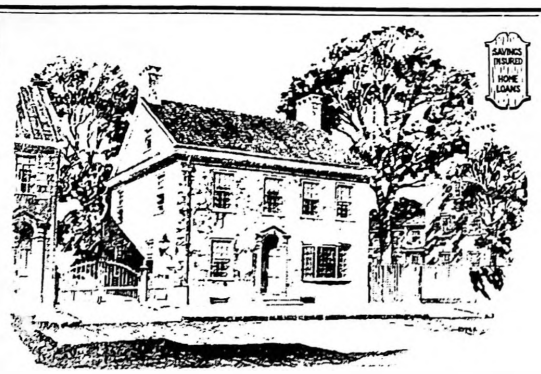
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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



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SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS

Complete sets of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER consisting of all numbers issued to date, are being offered (on order) at $3 per set including December 1953 issue.

The remaining copies of the "Guide Book to Historic Germantown" will be sold at One dollar each; copies of "Washington in Germantown" at One dollar each, in board covers, and Fifty cents in paper covers, both of these books being the work of our founder and former president, Charles Francis Jenkins.

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

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

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The Survey of the German Township by the Germantown Historical Society

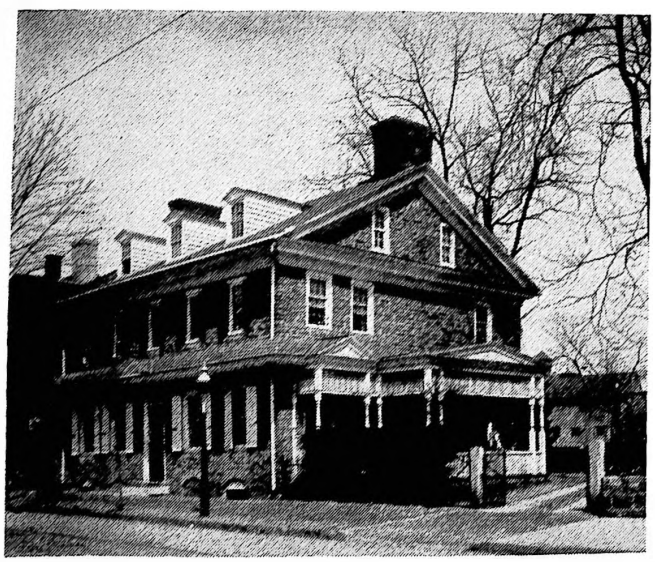
BY GRANT MILES SIMON

GRANT SIMON *is Advisory Architect for the Survey of the German Township, Consulting Architect for the Federal Government for the Independence National Park, and Executive Architect for the Plan of Development of the University of Pennsylvania.*

—

SEVERAL years ago, Mr. Leighton P. Stradley, President of the Germantown Historical Society, conceived the idea of a thorough investigation and record of the important historic relics in Germantown, as a step toward their ultimate preservation and restoration, believing that the restoration aside from its historic importance, would serve as an incentive in the impending building activity in Germantown, which he foresaw. While many buildings have been demolished in the past decades, there still exists an important collection. In fact, historians and architects agree that it is without parallel in the country, excepting of course the old part of the city around Independence Hall. It was thought that this historic colonial architecture could be adapted, in a broad sense, to the demands of modern building, serving the business community to its best advantage and at the same time providing a permanent setting for the irreplaceable houses of the "Settlement" and the "Revolution."

The officers of the Society and others particularly interested held a number of meetings in the fall and winter of 1951, to discuss and formulate a program. There was very little precedent for such an undertaking. No records were available of any survey comparable in importance. This Survey is therefore in many ways an original approach to the problem, based largely on the recommendations of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was made possible through the generosity of Messrs. James O. Wynn, Charles L. Horn and Ralph Clark, the directors of the Olin Foundation. Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols, Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Edward M. Riley, Chief Historian of the Independence National Historic Park Project have served as advisors on those matters directly concerned with the history of Germantown. The historical researches were undertaken by Dr. Harry M. Tinkcom and Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom. The architectural researches have been directed by the author of this note, with the assistance of a Committee of Architects composed of Messrs. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A., George Clarence Johnson of the Upsala Foundation, Sydney E. Martin, F.A.I.A., Charles E. Peterson, Resident Architect of the Independence National Historic Park Project, and the late Joseph Patterson Sims, F.A.I.A.



Green Tree Tavern, 6023 Germantown Avenue, erected, 1748 by Daniel Pastorius. Date stone bears letters "D.S.P."

The "Survey," in its present form, was substantially completed in the fall of 1952. However, it is a survey and does not pretend to be an exhaustive and complete record. The unique importance of these historic buildings warrants further research, which will entail a more comprehensive program, much more time and the activities of an extended personnel. It is hoped that the funds necessary for such a study will be procured in the near future.

As the "Survey" approached completion, the desirability of its adequate publication for the use of those immediately interested and for scholars and the public at large, became increasingly apparent. The grant was not sufficient to complete even this preliminary study and at the same time underwrite a properly printed and illustrated publication. Mr. Arthur Rosenlund, President of the Germantown Fire Insurance Company, stepped into the breech at this time and kindly agreed to assume this responsibility. His generous offer was accepted by the Honorable Harold D. Saylor, who has directed the work of the survey during Mr. Stradley's illness.

However, at about this time, the "Survey" was brought to the attention of the American Philosophical Society. After a careful review of the data, the Society offered to publish the "Survey" under their imprint and with a very substantial saving in publication costs. This was, of course, a matter of great gratification to all of those participating in the work. It is expected that the book will be off the press this fall. Mr. Rosenlund's interest and enthusiasm in the restoration of the Market Square is tangible evidence of the part a well informed businessman can contribute to the task of preservation.

The objective of the "Survey" is the preservation and restoration of the historic landmarks in German-

(*Continued on page 17*)

GERMANTOWNE CRIER

Volume 5 SEPTEMBER, 1953 Number 3

From Pieces of Eight to Bills of Credit

" . . . a revelation to students of modern finance."

By Leighton P. Stradley

Leighton P. Stradley *was born in Cumberland, Md. His family moved to Philadelphia when he was seven.*

Educated in St. Paul's School in Baltimore and the University of Pennsylvania, he graduated from the U. of P. Law School in 1906. At present he is a senior partner in the law firm of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens and Young.

Specializing in corporation and tax law, Stradley is Chairman of the Board of Advisors of the Pennsylvania Tax Institute. He is also founder and chairman of the Union League Tax Group. At one time he was assistant professor of Finance at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Excelling in the world of letters as well as the world of law, Stradley is the author of such impressive books as: "Early Economical History of Pennsylvania", "Corporation Finance", "Pennsylvania Taxation", and "Ten Capitals Of The United States."

BEFORE the formation of the Federal Government, no sound, adequate, and permanent monetary system was ever established in America. In the earliest days of this province, when word spread of the natural resources of the new country, the Norris, Dickinson and other families came from the West Indies to settle in Philadelphia, and brought quantities of gold and silver coin. Owing to the small number of people then in Pennsylvania, cash was plentiful.[1]

Money used in trade was confined to the coinage of foreign countries which reached the colonies in various ways. As an illustration, gold and silver coins were brought into New York by pirates in exchange for local products during this truly "golden age of piracy."[2] There were no banks in the colonies and but one mint prior to the Revolution.[3] However, as early as 1689, Thomas Budd proposed the establishment of a bank and William Penn issued a pamphlet in 1684–88 in which he advocated a bank to lend money on mortgage or pledge of houses and lands at eight per cent and to set up an office for the registry of transferable bills and bonds. The history of colonial currency is therefore, the history of makeshifts and complexities, with business, taxation and all financial activity tangled in its net. Since it is beyond the scope of this sketch to deal with these entanglements in detail, an outline alone is presented.

The scarcity of coin or any sufficient medium of exchange was manifest as soon as the period of pioneering was outgrown, and this deficiency grew more acute in direct proportion to the growth of population and the resulting increase in trade and commerce. The problem was aggravated by Britain's unwillingness to provide or even encourage the establishment of any monetary medium. The English policy of provincial government, like that of the old Roman Empire, was based upon the theory that colonies existed only for the mother country and as a market for her products. Accordingly, while England imported some raw materials from America, she unloaded her goods in the American market and demanded gold and silver in payment. She thus drained all the available specie away by virtue of her favorable balance of trade, meanwhile discouraging commerce with other European nations by placing a premium on their coins. Furthermore, no precious metals were mined in this country and their export from England was forbidden. As a result, the colonies were without means of transacting ordinary daily business between and among themselves. They were reduced to barter and later to paper currency, which added new complications because of its rapid depreciation in most instances, and because of varying rates of exchange. The inadequacy or failure of these schemes was no concern of the mother country as long as her interests

and trade were not inconvenienced. When the colonial practices interfered with British trade, they were summarily outlawed by the Board of Trade or by Parliament. This shortsighted policy was as much a cause of the American Revolution as taxation and political philosophy.

Pennsylvania's experiences in the field of currency were attended with more than average success, since she was one of the later colonies and in a position to profit by the failures of her sisters. In Massachusetts, for example, musket bullets were at one time declared legal tender, while Indian wampum passed as currency up to five shillings throughout New England. Neither of these measures was successful. Between 1652 and 1686, while forbidden by Parliament, Boston minted the "Pine-tree Silver," the only colonial coin to circulate widely. By an Act of 1683, it was made acceptable at par in Pennsylvania.

Barter seemed the only method of conducting business and, at the same time, preserving the small amount of specie. In consequence, one of the earliest laws of Pennsylvania, enacted in 1683, provided that "Hemp shall be current pay, betwixt Man and Man, at four pence per pound, and such flax at eight pence per pound."[4]

Shortly thereafter another Act of the same nature provided:

> "Whereas there is a Necessity for the sake of commerce in this infancy of things, That the growth and produce of this Province and territories thereof, shall pass in lieu of money, *Be it*, etc., That all Merchantable Wheat, Rye, Indian-corn, Barley, Oats, Pork, Beef and Tobacco, shall be accounted Current pay at the Market price."[5]

Towards this same end, the rate of sterling was advanced 25 per cent. The effectiveness of these measures is questionable, though Gabriel Thomas, writing in 1697, expressly states that silver was more plentiful in Pennsylvania than in England.[6]

Since the colonies were without any monetary system, coins of most of the nations of Europe were in active circulation in the colonies. The most familiar of these was the "piece of eight," or one-eighth fraction of the *Spanish milled dollar, which, incidentally, is the antecedent of the American Dollar*. In light of this heterogeneous coinage and the fact that books of account were kept in terms of the pound, some standard rate of exchange was essential. In 1683 the Assembly established rates for acceptance in Pennsylvania. "Pieces of eight" were to pass for 6s., Peru pieces for 5s. 8d., "Caroluses" for 30s., "Jacobuses" for 32s., ducats at 11s. 6d., Spanish pistoles at 20s., and other denominations in proportion. In the other colonies these rates varied, sometimes as high as 30 per cent. The Assembly re-enacted and amended the above rates by laws of 1693, 1698, and 1700. The first of these permitted variations in the rates according to the weight of the coin. This was necessitated by the prevalence of clipping, which, along with counterfeiting, menaced honest exchange throughout the colonies. Despite the most stringent laws to the contrary, it is little wonder that these practices thrived when there were such quantities of different coins and paper money. In 1698, the rates were generally advanced, particularly with respect to the "piece of eight." This was designed to bring in money for the promotion of trade, but it aroused the apprehension of the Proprietary and persons in England because of their quit-rents and interests as creditors. An early historian reports that even the colonists found this tampering with the value of money unsatisfactory. Standardization was achieved:

> ". . . in so irregular a manner, and at such uncertain rates, as gave the crafty many opportunities to prey upon the ignorant and necessitous; consequently was productive of much contention, embarrassment and confusion."[7]

English trade and credit also suffered and it was only a question of time before action was taken by the home government. Queen Anne issued a proclamation in 1704 establishing a standard coinage rate for all the colonies and this was confirmed by an Act of Parliament four years later. May 1, 1709 was fixed as the effective date for the new standards. This created a peculiar situation in Pennsylvania where debts contracted at 8s. per "piece of eight" had to be discharged with the "piece of eight" worth only 6s. according to the new provisions. The Assembly attempted to circumvent the Parliamentary legislation by declaring that coins had intrinsic value and should pass in relation to their metal content. This measure probably had some effect in reducing the injustice at the time, but it was later repealed by the Queen.

This controversy emphasized the distress, and the problem rapidly became acute with the onset of a business slump. The collapse of the South Sea Bubble, in which the English had speculated heavily, apparently precipitated a world-wide depression in the early 1720's. Commodity prices fell, credit was curtailed, and trade was greatly reduced. This directly affected America which was dependent on the sale of its products to the West Indies for what little cash it obtained. Pennsylvania was particularly affected because of its comparatively large commercial interests and the lack of any substitute for money. A contemporary reports the ill effects as follows:

> ". . . The general Damp that was given to trade in the year 1720, and the great fall (in the price) of our produce, about the same time, we were, in the years 1721 and 1722, so effectually drained of our coin, which, for want of other returns, was generally shipped off to Britain, that the inhabitants of every degree were reduced to the greatest straits; debts could not be discharged, nor payments be made; . . . families who had lived well could scarce find means to purchase necessary provisions for their support; . . . our yards appeared almost empty, and all trade was discouraged."[8]

Owing to these conditions, the people clamored for relief in the form of Bills of Credit.

Various paper issues had been made in other colonies in the preceding decades and had proven efficacious as long as their quantity was kept within reasonable bounds. In most cases, however, they had been considered a cure-all and were emitted without regard to their security. In view of the disasters caused by

(Continued on page 23)

The King of Prussia Inn

By George W. Williams

The author resided in this old house from 1892 until 1899. He wrote a history of it which was published in the Independent-Gazette of Germantown in 1896, quote is given below:—

—

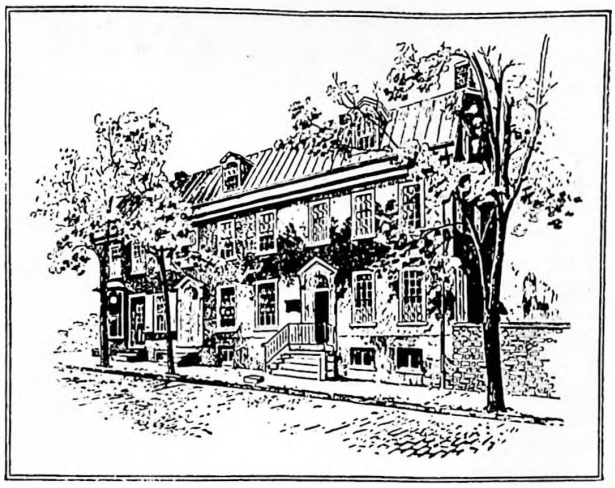
THIS old house extends its broad front along the westerly side of Germantown Avenue, between School Lane and Maplewood Avenue and takes in the numerals 5514–22. It was built in 1740, and was converted into an inn in 1763 and named in honor of Frederick the Great, which was about the period of his last great victories.

When this quaint building was erected it was considered by the inhabitants of Philadelphia (which then did not extend much beyond Sixth and Market Streets) as being far beyond the City—in the country. Now it is in the heart of one of the city's most populous wards, the 22nd.

Alexander McCarraher was the first proprietor of this inn. The next was Thomas Napault, and after him came Michael Riter, formerly the landlord of the Indian Queen Hotel, on the corner of Indian Queen Lane (now Queen Lane) and Germantown Road (Avenue). The Masonic fraternity then met in it. Mr. Riter was one of the founders and a member of the first board of directors of the Germantown National Bank (1814). Jacob Tripler was the proprietor prior to and for sometime after 1823. Abraham Shrack was the next, and the last was G. Boswell.

On the morning of the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, the left wing of the British army was on School Lane and reached from Germantown Road to the Schuylkill River and was under General Knyphausen, Generals Agnew and Gray being subordinate to him, as well as General Van Stern and his Hessians, while the Chasseurs mounted and on foot under Colonel Van Wormbs were on the Ridge Road as far up as the Wissahickon. The officers at the Germantown end of the wing who were privileged to leave the ranks regaled themselves at its bar. In fact on that day the enemy had complete possession of this inn.

In repairing the roof about a century after the Revolutionary War, one of the carpenters found a brass musket ball embedded in a rafter next to the lower window jamb of the first dormer window at the north end and west or rear side of the house, breast high from garret floor, undoubtedly a British soldier recognized by his uniform and seen from a distance at this window, was fired at by an American sharpshooter from too great a distance to hit his mark, although the ball must have struck within a few



King of Prussia Inn

inches of a vital spot of the Englishman. The American stood in a westerly direction from the window when he fired. A blue coat with brass buttons of colonial days was found at the same time between the rafters which fell apart while handling it, but the buttons were saved, several leaden bullets and a bayonet badly rusted were also dug up from the grounds surrounding the house.

A piece of blue and white plaid silk in good condition evidently very old and belonging to a lady's dress was found in 1893 by the writer, the present occupant, under a loose floor board in the attic, also a receipt of the Boston and Philadelphia Steam Boat-Line dated March 7, 1831. A letter dated January 27, 1832 signed Abraham Schrack and a newspaper scrap dated July 5, 1782.

During the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793, Germantown was made the Capitol of Pennsylvania and the business of the Commonwealth was transacted in a double front stone house that stood on Germantown Avenue; some of the State officials were guests at the King of Prussia Inn, which was some fifty yards above the temporary Capitol.

Gilbert Stuart the famous artist during his stay at this inn (1793–95) painted an equestrian figure of Frederick the Great on a large hanging sign for the proprietor of the inn. He desired to be unknown in the matter, but the secret was too good to keep very long and this added greatly to the popularity of the hotel in after years.

In 1832 Abraham Schrack, (then proprietor) had the old sign repainted and Stuart's work of art was hidden from sight and replaced by an ordinary lettered sign. The old sign with other relics were stored in the attic. There were some very fair landscapes painted by Stuart on the walls of the drawing room. They were principally of early Pennsylvania, of the Allegheny mountains, the Wissahickon with Indians among the trees also some views of old Germantown. They are now (1896) covered by wall paper.

Formerly there was a large long stone barn in the rear which was used by the British when they were

(*Continued on page 22*)

Lafayette at Barren Hill

By James K. Helms

James K. Helms, is now President, Wissahickon Valley Historical Society; Chairman, Philadelphia Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Marking of Revolutionary Graves since 1919, and present Chairman of the Pennsylvania Society, S.A.R. He also holds the office of Chairman, Historical Commission, Pennsylvania State Camp, P.O.S. of A. Mr. Helms is an Honorary Life Member, Montgomery County Historical Society, and an Officer of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, assigned to Youth Study Center.

ON May 19 and 20, 1778, General Lafayette with his army of 2100 men and five field pieces encamped at Barren Hill, to which point they had been ordered by General George Washington from "Valley Forge" where the Continental Army camped starting December 19, 1777, or just One Hundred and Seventy Five Years ago.



His instructions to Lafayette were that he was "to interrupt communications with the British in Philadelphia by land, to obstruct the ncursions of the enemies' parties, to obtain intelligence of their motion and designs, and in case of the withdrawal of the British forces from Philadelphia, if he could fall in upon the rear of the enemy, it would be a very desirable event."

Further he advised Lafayette:—"You will remember that your detachment is a very valuable one, and that any accident happening to it would be a very severe blow to the army; you therefore use every possible precaution for its security, and to guard against a surprise. No attempt should be made, nor anything risked without the greatest prospect of success, and with every reasonable advantage on your side."

Leaves Valley Forge

In accordance with these instru tions, General Lafayette and his detachment left Valley Forge on May 18, 1778, marching southward along the west bank of the Schuylkill to Swede's Ford (Norristown) a distance of about seven and a half miles, crossing and continuing southward along old Ridge Road to a point about twelve miles from Valley Forge, and a little over eleven miles from Philadelphia, less than a half mile southwest of a small village then and now known as:—"Barren Hill."

The selection of this site was a very wise one, as was afterward proven, Lafayette well saw the advantage of the position.

Site Considered Secure

The Camp Grounds were situated at an altitude of about four hundred feet, a steep rocky descent on the west, a gradual descent on the south, where he placed his artillery. Capt. McLane's Company of light troops and about fifty Iroquois Indian scouts were sent down the Ridge, marching as far as within nine miles of the City. He sent General Porter with six hundred Pennsylvania Militia in the direction of Whitemarsh to protect his left flank from a sudden attack from the east roads, easy to reach from Philadelphia.

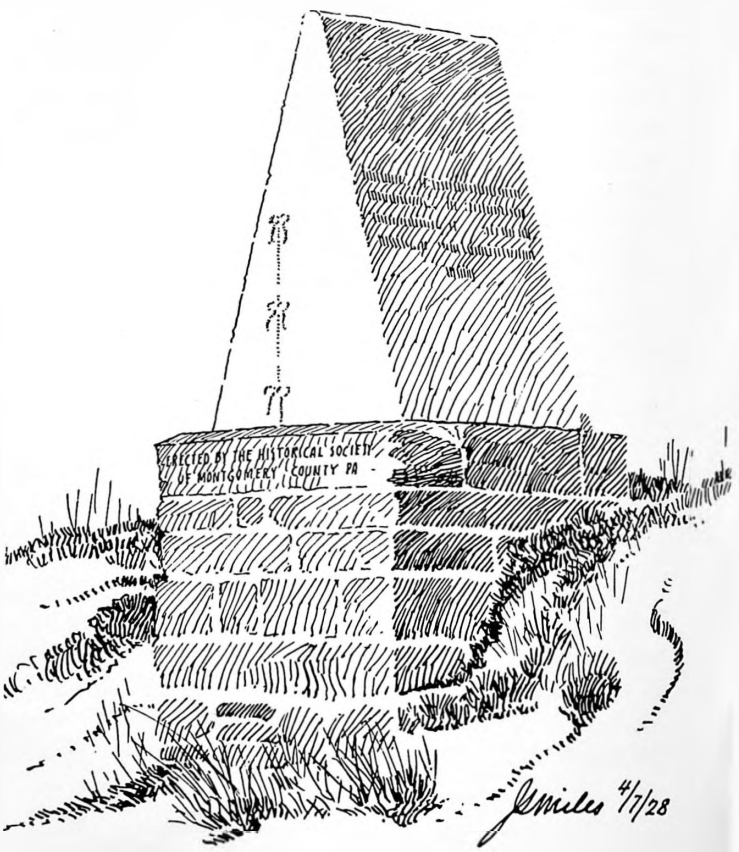
It is claimed that Lafayette first quartered at the house of a Quaker Tory, who dispatched a messenger in haste to Sir Henry Clinton, with the information as to his location, his probable plans, and the layout of the surrounding district and roads leading there.

In an effort to surprise Lafayette, General Clinton worked up a scheme to try to capture Lafayette, and exhibit him in Philadelphia. He and his advisers did not suppose for a moment that Lafayette and his small army could escape capture. But they surely did.

Forces at least four times greater than the Americans were sent in three or more detachments. One

(*Continued on page 20*)

Monument at Barren Hill
Pen and Ink Sketch by the late Joseph S. Miles, Secretary of Wissahickon Valley Historical Society



Germantown's Own Sloop-of-War

By Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw, U.S.N.R., Retired

Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr. *was born in Germantown and graduated from Chestnut Hill Academy, 1908. He entered U. S. Naval Academy 24 June 1908 as Midshipman, and graduated 7 June 1912, as Ensign. Having served thru all grades and on virtually every type of sea going ship in service, he retired as Captain, USNR, February 1946.*

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ONE OF THE many interesting exhibits in our Museum is the very handsome bell of the United States Sloop-of-War *Germantown*—the only seagoing vessel of the Navy to bear the name of Germantown. Since Germantown is no longer an independent community there will probably never be another. This bell is of such size and weight that there is at present no means of adequately displaying it and it is consequently probably unknown to most of our members and visitors.

On inquiry of our able Librarian, Mr. Hocker, it developed that the bell has a long and interesting history as described by a thick file of correspondence in the Library—a file which had not been opened for many years.

The *Germantown's* bell was cast by F. I. Dyre Jr. of Philadelphia in 1846 and was placed aboard the ship when she was launched in that year and was in use during the existence of the ship, which finally ended with her destruction when the Norfolk Navy Yard was abandoned at the outbreak of the Civil War. The bell had probably been on the bottom for some time but eventually turned up in the Norfolk Yard in 1904 when some alterations were underway. Learning of this, Mr. Ethan Allen Weaver of Germantown, a member of the Site and Relic Society and of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution started a move to obtain the bell for the Society's Museum.

With the aid of Governor Pennypacker the matter was taken up with the Navy Department and finally Senator Boies Penrose obtained the passage of a Joint Resolution of Congress authorizing the Department to turn the bell over to the Site and Relic Society. It was first placed in the Concord School House which then served as a museum and was later moved to the present museum building. The pen used by President Theodore Roosevelt in signing this resolution was also presented to the Society.

(Correspondence which was energetically carried on by Mr. Weaver produced an interesting file containing reference to many well known names—particularly for the writer, since the then Secretary of the Navy Truman H. Newberry was in office and signed my original appointment to the Naval Academy for which I had been nominated by Senator Penrose. Another item of the correspondence is a letter from the then Aid to the Commandant of the Naval Academy Lieutenant Arthur MacArthur who was my first Division Officer at the Academy. He was a son of General Arthur MacArthur of Spanish War fame and a brother of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. The Navy MacArthur died in the Service as a Captain in 1923.)

The *Germantown* was one of a very fine class of Sloops-of-War built as a result of the efforts of the Whig party in 1836–40 to increase the strength of the Navy. A blanket appropriation was passed and Secretary of the Navy Upshur authorized the construction of six of these ships. (In Navy terminology a Sloop-of-War was a three masted full rigged ship with a single deck of guns. Frigates had two decks of guns and Ships-of-the-Line had three or four. Our Navy had few Ships-of-the-Line altho had the advice of Gouverneur Morris and some other able statesmen of the day been followed we should have had from 12 to 20 of this class in the early 1800's. Had their advice been followed the results of the War of 1812 would have been much less ruinous for the country.)

The *Germantown* was one of the last of these ships to be completed, her keel having been laid in 1843 but construction was delayed for some time (probably lack of funds) and she was not launched until 1846. She was designed by John Lenthall, Naval Constructor of Philadelphia, probably with the aid of Samuel Humphreys also of Philadelphia, the son of Joshua Humphreys who had designed some of the earlier ships of the Navy. This father and son had much to do with the development and design of our very successful ships of the early Navy.

These were the last of the ships of the sailing Navy for steam had already begun to make inroads on merchant ship design and in spite of the requirements for very long cruising radius and long absences from port on the part of Men-of-War the great advantages of steam were appreciated and all later ships had steam for auxiliary power and finally for their only source of propulsion.

In a way the change was a pity for the "windjammers" were a beautiful sight at sea and were an example of a high degree of ingenuity on the part of the sailormen of the day. These large vessels were operated without the aid of a single bit of machinery and attained speeds of up to 17 knots, which was not equalled by steam for many years. They also bred a hardy race of seamen who were a most valuable asset to the country both in war and in peace.

This last class of Sloops-of-War were the equivalent of modern Light Cruisers. But the *Germantown* cost $166,343, quite a contrast to the many millions for their later counterparts. They were very fast ships—the *Germantown* was reputed to be the fastest and best sailer of the lot—but they were reputed to carry too much sail—a criticism which was borne out by the loss of one of them with all hands at sea. However they were sturdy and useful ships and several of them were still afloat and in use 60 years and more later. Incidentally, as late as 1910 some of the hulls of our old sailing ships which had been sold by the Navy were still in use as coal hulks in Gibraltar, where many ships had to stop and coal on their voyage either east or westbound.

The *Germantown* was built in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, then located on the Delaware River at the foot of Washington Avenue, in one of the old style "ship houses." Her length between perpendiculars was 150 feet, beam 36 feet and draft 17 feet—a fair sized ship of that day. She was ready for launching on August 22, 1846 at which time there was, according to newspaper accounts a quite impressive ceremony attended by most of the Borough Officials of Germantown and many other distinguished guests.

Her battery consisted of four 8 inch shell guns firing either a 64 pound shell or a similar weight solid shot, and 18–32 pounders—the latter classed as medium guns. All were cast iron smooth bore type cast in Pittsburgh. This was a heavy, and, for the time, a long range battery. The shell guns which were then a fairly new development weighed 6300 pounds and the others 4300 which made a considerable weight for the ship and necessarily had to be carried not too high above the water line in the interests of stability.

While the *Germantown* was classed as a 20 gun Sloop she carried, as did most other vessels of that time actually more than 20 guns. Only broadside guns were counted as those under the forecastle and in the cabin could only be used under special conditions.

The sponsor of the ship was Miss Watson, the daughter of John Fanning Watson, the author of "Annals of Philadelphia." The Infantry Corps of Germantown Blues in command of Captain John D. Miles was present for the occasion with their band which played during the ceremony. The ship was christened with a bottle containing wine supplied by the widow of Commodore Bainbridge and water from a spring located in the area where the Battle of Germantown was fought.

The launching was completed satisfactorily and was referred to by contemporary reporters as the most successful ever held in Philadelphia up to that time. Since the ship was not completed by December she was taken to Norfolk for final work to avoid possible damage by ice in the Delaware.

In March 1847 the *Germantown* went to sea for the first time in command of Commander Franklin Buchanan, a very able officer of our early Navy who resigned at the time of the Civil War to become an Admiral in the Confederate Navy. On this first cruise she was a part of the squadron of Commodore Matthew C. Perry who later conducted the expedition to Japan. This was during the period of the Mexican War and the *Germantown* was present and active in the siege and capture of Vera Cruz and of Tabasco, during a part of which time she was also the Flagship of Commodore Perry. Later service in this squadron was on the West Indies station where action was necessary to keep order and to suppress piracy. She later served on the African station in the suppression of the slave trade and in the East Indies under Commodore Tatnall of "Blood is thicker than water" fame.

The Commanding and other officers who served on the *Germantown* during her commission include many celebrated officers of the old Navy quite a number of whom attained Flag rank and were prominent in the Civil War.

Shortly before the Civil War the *Germantown* returned to the Norfolk Navy Yard for general repairs and was put out of commission for this purpose. Her repairs had been completed and she was ready for sea at about the time the Civil War broke out.

The Navy at this time was short of men, supplies, equipment and nearly everything else—a condition to which it has unfortunately been subjected in most periods of peace—and with the upset conditions and general uncertainty causing many of southern birth to leave the service to return to their home States, it was impossible to man all of the ships even where they were ready for sea.

Since the Norfolk Yard seemed to be impossible to defend the Federal authorities burned and destroyed all ships so far as possible, as well as other Government property and abandoned the Yard.

At this time, April 1861 the *Germantown*, together with the Ship-of-the-Line *Pennsylvania*, the Steam Sloop *Merrimac*, the Frigate *Raritan*, the *Columbia* and the *Germantown's* sister ship *Plymouth* were destroyed.

Her career had been an active and useful one but it is probable that she would not have been of great value in the war then starting owing to her lack of steam power which in the years intervening since her building had come into general use, particularly for the larger ships.

Commanding Officers of the *USS Germantown*

1847—Commander Franklin Buchanan, USN (For a time Flagship of Commodore Matthew C. Perry, USN)

1848, 1849, 1850—Commander Charles Lowndes, USN

1851—Commander James D. Knight (*Germantown* was then the Flagship of Commodore E. A. F. Lavalette, USN)

1852, 1853—Commander John S. Nicholas, USN

1854, 1855, 1856, 1857—Commander William F. Lynch, USN

1858, 1859, 1860—Commander R. L. Page, USN

Selected from the

"Biography of Benjamin Loxley"

This biography, as written by Benjamin Loxley June 20th, 1789, was made available to the GERMANTOWN CRIER *by the kindness of the author's great great grandson, Mr. Morris Loxley of Germantown.*

—

In 1739 and 1740 I learned Blakeney's exercise of Governor George Thomas and was chosen an officer in the Militia. At our Fort all through the Spanish war until 1747 I taught exercise to a great many in this province. (Pennsylvania)

In 1755, after Gen. Braddock's defeat, I learned Laboratory work, Gunnery, and Bombadereing, of Engibears Gordon and Bream and sundry other of Braddock's defeated men.

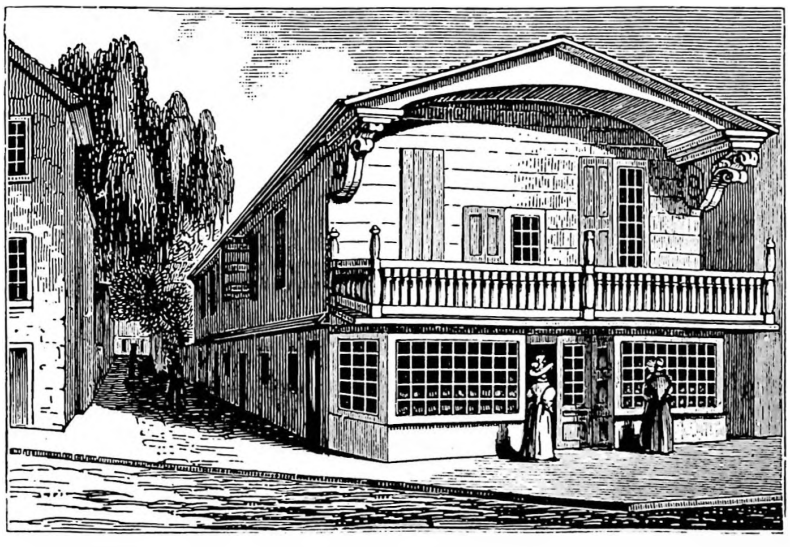
In 1755 I borrowed four cannon of Capt. Andrew Hodge, moulded them on travelling carriages and began the artillery company of Philadelphia. A great number of Tradesmen, Carpenters, Masons, Smiths, &c, met at our State House and chose old George North, Captain and myself Captain Lieutenant and John Goodwin 1st. Lieut. and James Worrell, 2nd. Lieut. We chose all our under officers and formed a company of 107 men officers included. We made a very great progress in the military art, both with our cannon and small arms, so that our Governor and Commissioners sent to England for two Brass Cannon, 12 pounders and two 6 pounders, all completely mounted and fitted. Also one 8 inch mortar-pit on a bed, 100 shells, 100 fuses &c. and 112 stand of small arms for our company's use. With us we taught great numbers of the Militia, both officers and men, the use of the cannon. We had them in use through the French war from 1757 to 1764.

In 1765 when the British destroyed all our Forts and took their arms away to England, Capt. D. Hay took our eight inch mortar away and would have taken our Brass Cannon also, but I had the command of our Artillery Company and the care of all our Artillery Stores here.

I got an order from Governor Richard Penn, to keep ours from them, and, with great dificulty saved all but the Mortar and bed, which they stole away privately. They gave us plain hints that it would not be long before the British army would visit America in a different manner than they had done to fight the French—but to settle with others, who had got too saucy and rich and lived too well (meaning us Americans).

In the first campaign after Braddock's defeat I listed with Capt. David Hay, to go as his second lieutenant in the King's Artillery and to get 12 men of our Philadelphia Artillery to go with me. So many of the officers and artillery-men were killed at Monongahela that they did not know what to do. But W. R. Franklin, Capt. James Coulter and others informed Gen. Forbes that I understood Laboratory work, artillery duty, and stores, he sent engineer Gordon and Commisary Henry Ward for me to go to his Quarters and after asking me many questions he went for Capt. Hay and ordered him to strike my name out of the master roll as he had other duty for me to do.

The next morning he sent me a commission and written directions by the Rev. Rd. Peters how to proceed and ordering me to take charge of all the King's stores in the place or what may arrive from England, to keep them safe and deliver none of them but to his orders, Capt. Hay's. or Engineer Gordon's or Commissary Ward's except Gen. Abercrombie or



The Loxley House on 2nd Street near the drawbridge was reproduced at the Sesqui-Centennial, Philadelphia 1926, and used as the center of hospitality for the Philadelphia Federation of Women's Clubs. Besides being the home of the patriot Loxley it was also the home for a short time of another patriot, Lydia Darrah. During the occupation of the British in Philadelphia she and her husband William lived there with their family and being Quakers and known to be non-combatants, the adjutant General of the British army asked the use of a room for an office. It was due to Lydia's sharp wits and swift feet that Washington was saved from defeat at Whitemarsh, December 2nd, 1777

the Governor of the Province would want some of them and take their receipts for Whatever I delivered as vouchers. I went through this duty for near seven years much to their satisfaction and my own and we settled agreeably they paying me according to our engagement.

In 1775 when the inhabitants of America found that the Parliment of England was determined to oppress and chain down America to their arbitary will petitions and remonstrances had no effect to induce them to be at peace with us. We were much grieved and angry at them—, The inhabitants met and appointed a certain number of men out of each ward and township to serve as a Committee of Safety to consider and council together and correspond with other committees throughout these states as to how to proceed.

I was chosen one in Dock Ward in Philadelphia. When I found I was chosen I was uneasy. I thought it was dangerous for me on account of the oaths of allegiance I had taken when I had taken commission under him and that I would be perjured. But some of my old Comrade officers through the French war, who were also chosen Committee-men, and I met and considered the matter well and we judged that King George had broken his coronation oath with us, wherein we engaged to protect all his subjects to free Liberty of conscience and lawful rights and now he had broken his promise and we were free from ours.

We met the committees and were zealous to do our duty at all times until kind Providence was so good as to grant us the victory.

I had a great many men at work making carriages, mounting cannon and fixing them complete and fit for duty. I was particularly concerned in discovering Benj. Baker and confining him for spiking up near 100 of our cannon in and about Philadelphia, with steel spikes and rat-tail files, it was proved against him in court, yet he was let go.

I was employed by our Governor and Commissioners to get out the steel spikes and to fix the cannon and travelling Smith-shops and to fit out all things needful for our gun boats, row galleys, ships of war, forts and Batteries &c. I attended twice a day, for near two years at the State House yard to teach my Artillery Company (174 men) beside many of the Militia men, who met with us, the exercise of cannon and also of small arms. To many of them I taught also the art of Laboratory works and fire works.

At the engagement between our Gun boats and ships and the Rainbow and Liverpool, British men of war,, I went down at 11 o'clock at night with my Artillery Company in shallops to Capt. Reed's Frigate at Fort Mifflin.

In 1776 by order of the Commander in Chief I marched my Artillery Company to Amboy to prevent the British Army from crossing the river from Staten Island to the Jerseys. There we could talk together across the river and sometimes fire across until I was ordered back to Philadelphia by Congress to build a furnace and boring mill to mould and cast brass cannon and bore them and fix them fit for duty. After I got my furnace completed and made 14 moulds for 8 lbs. cannon, 14 of 4 lbs., 6 of 3 lbs., 12 of 12 lbs., and a mould for 8 inch mortars, I cast two of the 8 lb. cannon.

Then Mr. Binns joined me at the foundary and went on casting in the moulds that I had made, for I was ordered to carry on the Laboratory works or our army must have been ruined for want of amunition. I continued at that until September 19th. 1771 when the British army arrived in sight of my house and works. Then I moved my wife and family to my wife's father's house in East Jersey and went to our laboratory works at Allentown and from there to join our army with whom I remained till after the Battle of Germantown, then back to the works at Allentown. In November after the British army got into Philadelphia I brought my wife and family from East Jersey again to my place near Allentown where I was taken very ill of pleuresy and continued out of health for two years. In April I moved my wife and family into Philadelphia again to my old house near the draw-bridge.

I found five of my buildings torn down and burnt to the ground and great damage done to the other interests I had in different parts of the city and Liberities. My hay barracks and fences were stolen away and my meadows were ruined. A large quantity of my goods and my work was stolen out of the houses and my shops. A calculation made shows that I have above $60,000.

1755 to 1763 the Province of Pennsylvania
Dr. to Benj. Loxley to seven years service
as artillery store-keeper at the State House
from August 1755 to 1763 at
£.20. a year £.180

I was employed by Governor Richard Penn and Commissioners Benj. Franklin, John Hugher, Joseph Fox.

May 1777 I settled sundry accounts with our Council of War and received from them orders on Mr. John Nesbit, Treasurer, for balances due me for work done, and good hard cash besides which I had paid out to carry on the public works in 1775–1776 and part of 1777; The balance amounted to nearly £900. but when I presented that order he had no money in the bank and I never got it till July 28th 1777 when the money was depreciated much by which I was a great loser.

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The William Penn statue was completed by the Tacony Iron and Metal Co. on September 1, 1892, and first assembled in the yard of that firm. Early in 1893 it was taken apart and the 47 pieces hauled by 16-horse teams to City Hall courtyard where it was assembled again in April, 1893. It was bolted together for the third and last time on top of City Hall in November, 1894.

Another Germantown Landmark in Danger

JOHN S. CHILD

JOHN S. CHILD, born in Philadelphia, grew up and lived in Germantown and Chestnut Hill. An alumnus of Penn Charter and Swarthmore College he is a member of the Society of Friends. He is descended from the watch and clock maker, John Child, whose firm in Philadelphia on 2nd Street was continued by the family for four generations. Mr. Child is active in the Germantown Historical Society, having served as Chairman of the Historic Tour Committee for the Society in charge of the tour of open houses in Germantown last spring.

THE HALF block on the "Great Road to Germantown," of which the museum of the Germantown Historical Society is the outstanding feature, includes a group of half dozen old houses still standing. These houses today are a charming interlude in an area which has given way to commercial development. Opposite the museum is the Bringhurst House. The museum itself as it stands back from the Main Street is balanced by the Howell House on the north and the Baynton House on the south.

The Baynton House at 5208 Germantown Avenue was placed on the market for sale late in August. It is the only building between the super market just completed (on the site of the Gilbert Stuart House) and the museum. This house, believed to have been built by Squire Peter Baynton about 1803, is one of the few brick buildings of the Federal period in Germantown. Much of its interior needs restoration but the details of the exterior are delicate and unusual.

Squire Peter Baynton was born in 1754, the third generation of his family* in this country and of well-to-do parents, in Philadelphia where his father, John Baynton, had his country seat at 4th and Wood Sts. Peter completed his law studies as a young man and became Postmaster of Philadelphia in 1776 when he was only 22 years old. During the Revolution he served his country in the state militia. He married



Photo By Joseph F. Morsello

Elizabeth Bullock from Germantown.

For a short time after the war he opened a store on Walnut Street above 2nd but his talent for public affairs soon led him back into politics and by 1793 when he was 39 he was chosen clerk of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania. Four years later he was commissioned Treasurer of Pennsylvania and still later Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania state militia.

It was when this last appointment expired in 1800 that he probably moved to Germantown where he temporarily rented the house owned by his wife's brother, Joseph Bullock at 5300 Germantown Ave. at the northwest corner of Queen Lane* which had once been occupied by the second Christopher Sauer. Soon after this, he moved to the brick house at 5208 Germantown Ave. a half block away which he is supposed to have built. It is in honor of Peter Baynton that Baynton Street in Germantown is named.

Much of the available information about him is found in Vol. 6 of the Pennsylvania Magazine of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1882 and in the "Memoir of Charles J. Wister" by Charles J. Wister, Jr. Peter Baynton's sister Hester married Joseph Bullock and their daughter Rebecca Bullock married Charles J. Wister, Sr. of Grumblethorpe.

There is some evidence that Squire Baynton built the Baynton House for one of his daughters. In any case, he occupied the house himself. The next house but one was then occupied by Gilbert Stuart, the artist, who was a close friend of Squire Baynton's.

Squire Baynton was a well known figure in Germantown. His presence at the 4th of July celebrations at Wister Spring in Wister Woods, where he acted as cook and was the life of the party, is mentioned in the "Memoir of Charles J. Wister." His two daughters, Eliza and Hetty Baynton are also mentioned as at-

(Continued on page 17)

*Peter Baynton's grandfather was also a Peter Baynton who emigrated to America in 1695. He was a shipping merchant and lived in Burlington, N. J. drowning in the Delaware River in sight of his home in 1723. Peter Baynton's father, John Baynton, was a merchant in Philadelphia.

*The site of the parsonage of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Note: The help of many people in locating the information for this article, especially the help of Miss Frances A. Wister and Capt. Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr., is gratefully acknowledged.

THE FREE QUAKERS

By Paul L. Tiers

Paul L. Tiers *is a birthright member of the Free Quaker Society and a descendant of Samuel Wetherill. All references used were compiled by his uncle, Charles Wetherill.*

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SLOWLY but surely the buildings are being torn down for the new city mall, which when completed, will take in the four city blocks in old Philadelphia, from Independence Hall to the Delaware River Bridge. The block between Chestnut and Market Streets is cleared and when the next block to Mulberry Street, now Arch, is finished, I understand that only one building will remain standing. This building, on the southwest corner of 5th and Arch Streets, directly opposite Benjamin Franklin's grave, is a small meeting house, built by the Free Quakers. The gabled end which fronts on Arch Street has a marble tablet bearing this inscription

By General Subscription,
For the Free Quakers, Erected,
In the year of our Lord, 1783
Of the Empire 8

The Meetinghouse of the Society is to be turned into a Museum to house their records. It is such a suitable tribute to the brave and daring group of patriots, who risked social and financial ruin by opposing the dictates of the Society of Friends. This building stands today as the only memorial to this patriotic group of the Revolutionary era.

The Friends being strongly opposed to war and disloyalty to their King, viewed these political disputes with apprehension, and at their General Meeting, held in Philadelphia in 1774, a letter was formally approved and ordered sent to all Meetings of Friends in America. All members were warned not to depart from their peaceful principles by taking part in any of the political matters then being stirred up, reminding all Friends that under the King's government they had been favored with a peaceful and prosperous enjoyment of their rights and strongly suggesting the propriety of disowning all members who disobeyed the order issued by the Yearly Meeting. This letter was generally obeyed by most of the Friends who took no part in the war for freedom.

As the Friends at that time were truly the leaders of finance and industry and highly regarded in Philadelphia, we can see that the problem facing this daring group of dissenting Friends was a very difficult one to solve; they must have given careful thought to it before taking such a final step in opposing deliberately the ruling of the Meeting. The Society of Friends did not hesitate to disown disobedient members by letter. A number of these are on record: that of Samuel Wetherill 8th month 1779 and Isaac Howell being among those of the Philadelphia meeting. Joshua Ely Jr. 3 day 1st. 1780 by the Monthly Meeting at Buckingham. Some of the dissenting members strongly protested, among these was Thomas Ross who was read out at the Monthly Meeting of Wrightstown, 4th day of the 11th month 1777, who answered with a vigorous protest. The real test came when a bill was passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania on June 13th, 1779. This bill commanded all residents to appear before qualified justices and officers to take an oath of allegiance to the state of Pennsylvania and to the United States of America and adjure forever all allegiance to the King and Great Britain. A great many Friends disregarded this law; some took the oath secretly and many publically appeared to take the oath.

Among these was Samuel Wetherill who in 1775 had joined with Christopher Marshall and opened the first factory in America for weaving cloth. They were in full operation when war broke out; most of their output went to the Continental Army; it is said that timely shipments to Valley Forge saved Washington's Army from disbandment. So we find these patriots deeply involved in the struggle, both men and women. Among these are Lydia Darraugh, who reported British troop movements to the Continental Army at Whitemarsh; Elizabeth Griscom, widow of John Ross and later the wife of John Claypool, who made our first flag. We must not forget that brave group that tended the wounded at the battle of Trenton; Colonel Timothy Matlack, on the Committee of Public Safety, later on the State Legislature, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, his brother White Matlack, William Crispin, Commissioner in Washington's Army, Colonel Clement Biddle who raised a company and was Quartermaster General under General Gates at Valley Forge, Owen Biddle, a member of the State Legislature, Benjamin Say, a well known physician, Samuel Wetherill, whose ready tongue and fluent writings were used for the cause, Christopher Marshall, on the committee of Public Safety, Joseph Warner, in the army at the battle of Trenton, Peter Thompson engaged by Congress to print Continental money, Nathaniel Browne, Isaac Howell, Moses Bartram, Jonathan Scholfield, all prominent members of the Society. I am sure that their united effort was quite a factor in deciding the outcome of the war.

During these stormy times, the disowned Friends sorely missed their religious services, they began gathering in convenient homes to hold worship. This custom was continued after peace was signed. After much discussion it was decided to form their own

(*Continued on page 21*)

SURVEY OF GERMAN TOWNSHIP

(*Continued from page 6*)

town. These buildings and grounds are owned by a number of individuals, companies, religious organizations and by the City, the State and the Federal Government. The creation of a plan of preservation that will not interfere with the business interests of the community, but rather be a vital part of it, has been given careful thought.

The first step, it is believed, in the solution of this complicated matter, has been taken in the organization of the Philadelphia Historic Buildings Committee, which will undertake the preservation and restoration of all the historic buildings in Philadelphia and the vicinity. The work of this Committee has been sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Movement. Mr. H. A. Batten, Chairman of the Board of N. W. Ayer and Son and a director of the G.P.M. has kindly concerned himself with the program and is directly assisting, not only in the city-wide program but in the "Survey" and in the restorations in Germantown.



Painting of George Washington and his family by an unknown artist, now displayed at the Morris House

Every person and every organization whose advice or help has been sought in the preparation of data for the "Survey" has been generous of their time. It is not possible to record here the names of all those who have helped. This enthusiastic co-operation reveals the profound interest in, and acceptance of the necessity for historic preservation. The work of preservation in Germantown is understood, today, largely through the efforts, early and late of the Philadelphia Society For the Preservation of Landmarks and its distinguished President, Miss Frances A. Wister. The City Planning Commission, The Department of Public Works of the City, The Pennsylvania Historical Society, The American Philosophical Society have helped in every possible way. Mr. Frederick R. Rath, Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mr. Albert Simons of the Charleston Foundation, and Mr. Arthur Feitel of the Viêux Carré Commission of New Orleans have been particularly helpful with advice based on long experience in historic preservation.

The "Survey" records the more important historic events, buildings and sites of Germantown. The bibliography contains the names of several hundred men and women who knew its history and its origins. Many lived here and were a part of it. They had a deep affection for its peculiar and particular charm and recognized the place it must always hold in the history of the country as the site of events of profound importance in the founding of the nation. These buildings were familiar to the men and women of the 18th century who by their indomitable courage and uncompromising idealism created the nation. They are irreplaceable.

ANOTHER GERMANTOWN LANDMARK IN DANGER

(*Continued from page 15*)

tending skating parties with the Wister family.

Although Peter Baynton was never a director of the Bank of Germantown (later the Germantown National Bank), he was instrumental in its formation. Because of his political influence, he was appointed chairman of a committee to arrange for the Pennsylvania legislature to pass a bill chartering the bank and the governor to sign it. He reported the job completed in March 1814 at a meeting of the bank founders in Michael Ritter's tavern at the corner of Queen Lane and Germantown Ave. By the time of his death in 1821, Peter Baynton had accumulated a fortune.

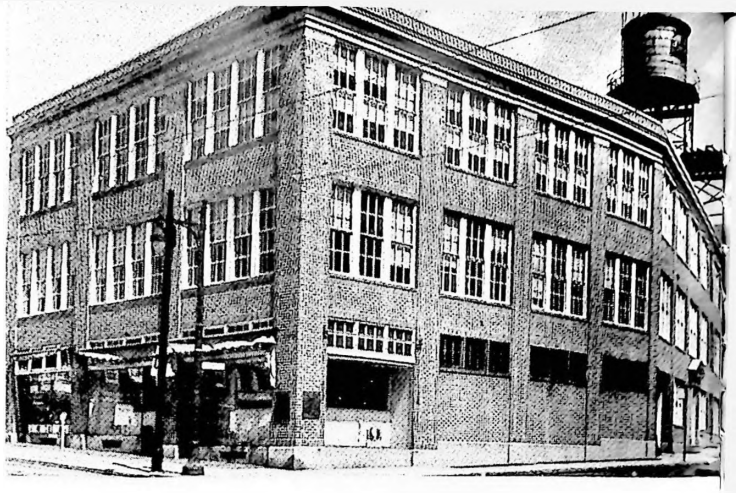
The Baynton House is one of those houses included in the "Survey of German Township" conducted under the auspices of the Germantown Historical Society. The architectural features of this survey have been supervised by Mr. Grant M. Simon, A.I.A., of Philadelphia and the historical features of the survey have been under the supervision of Dr. Harry M. Tinkcom and his wife, Margaret B. Tinkcom, of Mt. Airy. This remarkable work is being published with the help of the American Philosophical Society.

Since the period of the Baynton family ownership, the house has passed through various hands. It has been in the possession of the Bilhardt family since 1913. This house is in an important center for any possible restoration work. It is hoped that the proposed sale of the house will not result in another demolition of one of Germantown's precious landmarks.



RICHARD TOWNSEND'S ORIGINAL DWELLING-HOUSE.

Salute to a Centenarian



FROM teaching school in England, to manufacturing covered rubber thread and surgical elastic stockings in America, was quite a hurdle—but James R. Kendrick was young, and this new field in a strange new world was appealing.

Letters from his uncle, Vincent Perry, gave glowing accounts of a business he had started in Germantown, Philadelphia in 1853, the first American manufacturer of knitted elastic fabrics and garments. The small business had flourished, and now the aging uncle felt he needed younger help; he wrote to his nephew in England. He wrote of the town's growth, of the early settlers from Germany and England who were skilled in the knitting business, and how Germantown had become a home and center of the textile business in America.

It was logical for Vincent Perry to settle in Germantown—he was an expert knitter. It was just as logical for him to want his nephew with him. Perry knew all phases of knitting, but soon realized he needed help in sales, clerical and administrative matters, he knew his nephew could help here.

Time was when those who were physically afflicted could expect little except a life of pain and discomfort. It was to help such as these that James R. Kendrick, the school teacher, left England to "enter trade" in America, and so became a silent partner in the new venture. In the early years the volume of business was small, so that in his spare time he decided to learn all that he could of the manufacturing in addition to his other duties, and soon he became proficient in all branches of the business. After the death of his uncle, James R. Kendrick became the sole owner.

Sometimes even today, small businesses have their start in the home. A hundred years ago, such was the rule rather than the exception. Thus was started James R. Kendrick, Inc. The first factory was in a little stone building in the rear of the family property. It still stands, and might be called the great-grandfather of the present day modern plant, for the business has moved to larger quarters four times in a century.



Artist's sketch of the first Kendrick Factory

High quality elastic fabrics are knitted, not woven. This allows greater elasticity and resistance for more satisfactory wear and comfort. Knitting is wonderfully complex, with the elastic thread completely buried in the fabric. The knitting of elastic fabrics, from the very nature of the rubber thread, requires unceasing vigilance by experts. Many men know rubber, many others know fabrics and knitting, but few are experts in combining both into quality knitted elastic.

In 1853, knitting was a hand operation on crude machines that had been brought from England. Additional machines were built right at the factory, maintenance was also a part of the business for there were no machine shops then. Each worker jealously guarded his frame, considered it his personal property and refused to let others use it. Knitters felt about their machines much the way a musician feels about his instrument, treating them as personalities.

By 1900, expanding business made a move to larger quarters necessary. Another move was made for the same reason in 1912, when surgical elastic was still largely hand-frame production.

In 1912 the Kendricks manufactured the first piece of corset elastic. Realizing the tremendous possibilities in this field a search was started for better machines toward greater production. In 1914, flat-bed machines were imported from Switzerland that almost duplicated hand-frame stitching, but were much faster. It was on these new machines that Kenlastic was developed—the supreme standard in elastic fabrics. The corset industry was rapidly turning from "hard" fabrics to "soft", bones and steel ribbing gave way to elastic. Demand grew and grew. To fill it several types of circular knitting machines were developed. These were also adapted to the knitting of elastic stockings.

Elastic stockings were among the first Kendrick products, way back in 1853. These were hand knitted on machines embodying much the same principles as modern full-fashioned hosiery machines. However, the dropping of stitches was a hand operation in con-

trast to today's high-speed automatic action. Even today the hand knitted stockings are still preferred by some customers. It is interesting to note here, that the world's first full-fashioned hosiery was elastic stockings.

In 1906, James R. Kendrick incorporated his business with his four sons, J. William, T. Frank, Arthur B., and Ernest P. At the founder's death in 1910 the business passed into the hands of the third generation. J. William Kendrick died in 1944 and T. Frank Kendrick in 1949. Today, Arthur B. Kendrick is President, Ernest P. Kendrick is Treasurer. Three members of the fourth generation are now active in the business. They are A. Frank Kendrick, Warren R. Kendrick and William E. Kendrick, Vice-President, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, respectively.

In 1920, the present modern factory building was erected at Germantown Avenue and Pastorius Street —an interesting address, for now one of Germantown's oldest firms was located on the street named for the town's founder, Francis Daniel Pastorius.

In 1924, the Kendricks played a leading role in a program aimed at standardizing the types of physiological supports manufactured. Cooperating with a group of eminent physicians and surgeons a research program was set up to determine the best designed surgical garment for each condition. The program was a great help to patients, their doctors and surgical supply dealers. Through the years many patents were granted for improvements in surgical garments and appliances.

In 1932, the result of another important research development was announced by the Kendricks. This was the Accordion Stitch knitted into seamless elastic stockings. Wrinkling and binding over the instep and under the knee had always been a source of discomfort and annoyance to elastic stocking wearers. The introduction of the Accordion Stitch ended this annoyance—and also became a wonderful sales help in those dark depression days.

In 1952, as a result of two years experimenting with various weights of Nylon-covered elastic yarn, Kendrick produced their "Kenlite" stocking, a new lightweight style made entirely of Nylon. This two-way stretch, glamour elastic stocking was as sheer as safety would permit.

In 1940, in answer to many requests, the Kendrick Company broadened its field. Realizing the need of a single source of supply for corrective garments and appliances they introduced a line of trusses and surgical appliances. But James R. Kendrick's favorite —the elastic stocking—is still "star" of the show. If James R. Kendrick could return to the business he would be amazed at the complexity and speed of modern manufacturing, but pleased to find that the high standards of quality upon which he built his success are still being followed, and are appreciated throughout the industry.

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LAFAYETTE AT BARREN HILL

(Continued from page 10)

under command of General Grant with about five thousand troops went via Old York Road, crossing into Whitemarsh, or in the rear of Lafayette's position in the general direction of Valley Forge, the route over which the Americans must retreat. General Grey with two thousand proceeded on Germantown Road, or the southeast of Lafayette's position, and General Clinton himself with the main army marched along Ridge Road through Upper Roxborough in order to attract the attention of the Americans, while the other divisions closed in on the left flank and rear.

Red Coats Meet Indians

An incident is depicted at the 9th Mile Post, when a company of General Clinton's Red Coats coming suddenly on the band of Fifty Iroquois Indian Scouts were terrified when the Indians let out their War Whoops, and the Indians as well were terrified at the brilliant appearance of the British Dragoons;—and it is claimed that both parties fled in disorder.

Just about this time Capt. McLane had been informed by a local sympathizer named Rudolph Bartle that a large army of Red Coats had appeared on the Whitemarsh Road, in Lafayette's rear; at first this did not startle Lafayette, as he had located General Potter in that vicinity, and some of the Pennsylvania Militia had scarlet uniforms.

However after McLane's Scouts reported, Lafayette deemed it advisable to withdraw his army from the Camp Site along the Ridge to the Churchyard of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, which was surrounded with a substantial stone wall, providing a means of temporary defense. His Scouts then reported the only road remaining open for escape led towards Spring Mill, thence to Matson's Ford, now Conshohocken.

He concluded quickly that something must be done at once, so he organized a number of false heads of columns, and marched them in several directions, which compelled General Grant to hesitate, so as to form a plan of attack. In the meantime the main part of Lafayette's army were travelling as fast as possible down the Spring Mill Road. The false heads of columns were withdrawn, and all arrived at Matson's Ford with safety, where they crossed. The British arrived in time to see the last detachment crossing, and reports state that nine Americans were lost and two of the Field Pieces. The British in the skirmish lost two light horsemen and had several wounded. Thus the day of May 20, 1778 was saved by Lafayette and his men at "Barren Hill."



THE FREE QUAKERS

(*Continued from page 16*)

meeting. A committee composed of White Matlack, John Eldridge, Isaac Howell, and Samuel Wetherill chose the present site and on July 7th, 1783 closed the purchase. The building was completed in 1784, the Meeting house was financed by subscription. Among those subscribing were General Washington, Benjamin Franklin, a number of other admirers and the Society members. This young society prospered, branches springing up along the eastern seaboard, largely in Maryland and Massachusetts. In the course of time a substantial endowment was established, so in 1829, John Price Wetherill, then clerk of the Meeting, suggested using the interest of this sum for charity. This was passed in a business meeting and is still in force. The Society still holds an annual business meeting to elect officers and decide in what form the funds will be distributed. The Meetinghouse was leased at a nominal rental for many years to the Apprentices Library, then the only library in the city. At the turn of the century the religious services were so poorly attended that they were discontinued.

I said earlier that the Meetinghouse was the only memorial perpetuating these brave men, but I forgot the graveyard. An act was passed in Legislature, August 26th, 1786 granting to the Society lots number 36 to 41 situated on 5th near Locust Street in recognition of their services in the war, to be used as a burial site. This was sold about 1900 and the bodies were removed to a small tract of land on "Fatland", a farm on the east bank of the Schuylkill River, opposite Valley Forge Park, at that time belonging to John Macomb Wetherill, a member of the Society who deeded this land to be used by the Free Quakers and their decendants forever. Charles Wetherill the secretary of the meeting at that time took charge of the removal of the bodies. He notified all interested persons, among those being the Governor of Vermont, who sent a delegation to Philadelphia to claim the remains of Ethan Allen for removal to Vermont.

Contrary to custom a number of the graves in the new graveyard have headstones, some are badly weathered, but that of Timothy Matlack and Samuel Wetherill and his wife Sarah, daughter of Mordecai Yarnall are very disttinct.

I feel sure that one day this historic graveyard will be included in the Valley Forge Park boundaries, as the Park line now extends several hundred feet on the east bank of the Schuylkill River. Since many of the Free Quakers were very actively engaged in war activities during the Valley Forge encampment period, the enclosure of the graveyard would seem most natural.

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KING OF PRUSSIA INN

(Continued from page 9)

in Germantown as a slaughter-house. It was burned down in 1849. A frame barn of colonials days which stood near the stone one, the beams, girders and rafters of which were hewn out with an adze, had its roof and some of its contents consisting of colonial relics burned on March 5, 1896. The loss said to be $100,000.

During the yellow fever scourge in Philadelphia, General Washington then President, occupied the Morris Hotel, opposite Market Square had several horses stabled in these two barns, not having room for them all at that place. He had some 22 head of horses at that time.

The first stage-coach having an awning was run by Coleman from the King of Prussia Inn, to the George Hotel at Second and Mulberry (Arch) Streets, Philadelphia, making three trips a week.

Between 1825 and 1838 the circuses and menageries that came to town located on the grounds of this inn, and during this period political mass meetings were held there. James McGowen (the father of Franklin B. Gowen who was for many years president of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company) on at least one occasion addressed a political meeting there. He was a defeated candidate for Congress in the early 1830's.

About 1833, Benjamin Lehman's lumber yard a short distance above the inn was destroyed by fire. Two alarms brought fire companies from the City. On this occasion all the wells in the neighborhood were pumped dry, including the two of this inn. Peach brandy was sold to the firemen and carried to them in leather fire-buckets.

The Middle Ward Fire Company, one of the first in Germantown, which was organized January 28, 1764 and built their first house (frame) on Market Square, held their meetings in the King of Prussia. The following are abstracts from their Minutes of meetings held in it some 45 years later:—"Jan. 28, 1809—The Middle Ward Fire Company held their annual meeting at King of Prussia." Thomas Vapault was then the proprietor. "Aug. 29, 1814—A committee of this company met at the King of Prussia, to transact business." Michael Riter was then the landlord. On Aug. 29, 1833, they held a meeting here "When the building committee reported the old engine house had been sold for $1,400, and a contract given for a new house for $9,500.00. The next year this company was known as The Washington Fire Company. Abraham Schrack was at that time proprietor of the King of Prussia Inn.

Many other organizations were formed within the walls of the old King of Prussia Inn. In 1823, Jacob Tripler was the landlord. In 1838 it ceased to be a public house and was occupied by the owner, William Ashmead, who had a grocery store in the southerly end. After his death his son, Charles F. Ashmead, resided in it and succeeded him in the business.

In 1863–63, a French woman conducted a school in the former store room. Afterward Henry A. W. Smith occupied the store for his plumbing business. The dwelling part of the house was leased from 1865 for some twenty odd years by Miss Horstman. During the winter of 1889–90 the family of Lewis C. Cassidy, Attorney-General of Pennsylvania under Governor Pattison, lived there. Since that time, the author of this sketch, Doctor George W. Williams, Dentist, has resided in it.

In the Autumn of 1892, George C. Goodrich, of Chicago, inventor and manufacturer of sewing machines attachments, wrote a poem entitled "The New Nation", in this house while a guest of Dr. George Williams.

With the march of time modern improvements have been introduced into this house, but there are many quaint features still to be found in it.

In the north front cellar, which was in former times a basement kitchen, is a large fire-place, with an iron crane. A door from this cellar on the north side leads to a vault in which ale and provisions were kept. Stone steps lead to a door opening into the yard. A long, narrow opening in the north wall of the vault discloses the old well where butter, meat, etc., were lowered to be kept cool.

As a private residence it is still known as "The King of Prussia". With its gambriel roof and broad veranda which extends along the entire length in the rear of about 70 feet, shaded by fine old maples, its old brass door knocker, wrought iron latches and its finely carved mantels and fireplaces, it still remains an object of interest to all lovers of the antique.

GEORGE W. WILLIAMS

N.B. In 1910 this building was demolished and a number of up-to-date stores erected on the site of the old "King of Prussia Inn."

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FROM PIECES OF EIGHT

(*Continued from page 8*)

depreciation in the value of these issues, the intelligent citizens of Pennsylvania approached the matter cautiously. The Assembly debated the advisability and manner of issuing Bills of Credit for more than a year before taking any action. The conservative element, led by James Logan, saw only the attendant evils, and their opposition had the important effect of confining the ultimate issue within sane channels. On March 2, 1723, agreement was reached and the Assembly authorized the issue of £15,000 in Bills of Credit in amounts from 1s. to 20s.

Although the emission of Bills of Credit was not designed as a substitute for taxation, in practice, it achieved this effect. These Bills of Credit served as a medium of currency and were later made legal tender. Although the province took mortgages for the bills they loaned out, the holder had no security. They were merely promises by the colony to pay the bearer, who had nothing but the good faith of the government to depend upon.[9] The first emission in 1723 heralded a new era in provincial finance. So carefully were these bills emitted that for more than twenty years they were overwhelmingly advantageous to provincial interests. Not only did business and trade thrive and the province prosper, but the Assembly and governor were able to provide for all the expenses of government without levying more than a small excise and a few import duties. This was made possible by the interest money derived from the loan of these notes at five per cent and only on reliable security; in this manner, the government obtained income without giving any value except to pledge its credit for ultimate payment to the holder. The Treasury received as much as £4,000 per annum from this source, and, since the period from 1723 to 1755 was free of expensive and large-scale colonial wars, this money was almost adequate in itself to meet the exigencies that arose.

These bills, called Pennsylvania currency, could be obtained by anyone who had plate or unencumbered real estate to pledge for their redemption. Loans on plate were limited to one year only, while those on real estate could run for eight years, one-eighth of the principal to be repaid annually. The money thus paid in was to go toward the purchase of other bills, which were then to be "sunk" or destroyed. A further provision limited to £100 the loan to any one individual so that the distress of the small householder might be relieved and speculation discouraged. Of the £15,000 gross amount, £2,500 was appropriated for the payment of public debts and salaries, and £1,600 was loaned to the counties. Revenue from the customs and excise was to be used for the redemption of the £2,500, while the counties were to add 1d. per £ to their annual levies in order to discharge the county loans.

Shortly after these bills began to circulate, it became evident that their quantity was insufficient and numerous petitions were presented to the Assembly requesting an additional emission. Before the year was out, on December 12, the Assembly voted to issue an additional £30,000 in Bills of Credit. These were to run for twelve and one-half years and, unlike the previous Act, it was provided that when the bills were paid in they might be reissued on new loans, thus preserving the volume of paper currency.

The immediate effect of these bills on trade and business was astounding. Imports from England doubled in value (£16,000 in 1723, £30,000 in 1724); shipbuilding regained its former activity; and the export market rapidly revived. Property values recovered and pressure on debtors was relieved. Of all the various experiences with paper money as an antidote for depression, Pennsylvania was the outstanding example of success.[10] Despite this happy effect, however, paper money was still viewed with disfavor in England and only its wide circulation among the less privileged classes restrained the Board of Trade from recommending repeal of these acts.

The withdrawal of part of the currency to be "sunk" and the increase in population tended to reduce prices and wages again in 1728–29. Since prosperity had followed the last issue of Bills of Credit, another emission was immediately demanded. The Assembly was only too willing, but the wise counsel of Governor Patrick Gordon kept it in check. He had orders from the Proprietary to veto any currency bills unless they were absolutely imperative to the welfare of the colony. On the other hand, Gordon's sympathies were with the colonists, and he sincerely believed that more Bills of Credit were to their best interests. He insisted, however, that it would be inexpedient to make too large an issue in view of the Proprietary disapproval. This led the Assembly to reduce its demands from £50,000 to £30,000, and, though his proposed sop to the Penns—that quit-rents be made payable in sterling—was not included, Gordon consented to the measure in May, 1729. These bills were to pass current for sixteen years and brought the total outstanding to £75,000. Since only Gordon's strong plea for approval of this Act avoided annulment by the Crown, Pennsylvania continued without further emissions for ten years.

This inflationary measure had the same reviving effect as that of 1723. Prices and wages were restored, while exports and imports reached new peaks. Bills of Credit further sold themselves to the people by virtually eliminating taxation; the interest revenue was sufficient to meet most of the fiscal demands of the government. As Governor Gordon reports in a letter to the Board of Trade dated March, 1731:

> "By the emission of a paper currency in this Province, an annual interest arises thereon amounting to near three thousand pounds this currency which with a small excise on spirits not amounting to one thousand pounds, yearly raise

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together a sufficiency to answer all the present exigencies of this government."[11]

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[1] William Fishbourne's Narrative of Philadelphia Events, Watson's Annals of Philadelphia, Vol. 1, p. 73.

[2] Fisk, The Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America, Vol. II, p. 260.

[3] Watson's Annals of Philadelphia, Vol. II, p. 281. The mint was located in New England.

[4] Charters and Laws of Pennsylvania, p. 140.

[5] Ibid., p. 162.

[6] Henry Phillips, Jr., American Paper Currency, Vol. I, p. 9.

[7] An Historical View of the Constitution and Government of Pennsylvania, pp. 84–85.

[8] Thomas Griffith to John Eastwick, in Letters of Isaac Norris, 1719–1756.

[9] Historical Sketch of Continental Paper Money, The National Magazine and Industrial Record, Vol. 1, June 1845, p. 407.

[10] Richard A. Lester, Currency Issues to Overcome Depression in Pennsylvania, Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 46, pp. 324–375.

[11] British Board of Trade Papers, Proprieties, Vol .XIII, S. 34.



Bethlehem Coach

An Act Regulating Banks

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That for the purpose of establishing banking institutions the state shall be divided into 27 districts as follows, viz: The city of Philadelphia shall be a district and may establish 3 banks, 1 to be called the Mechanics' Bank of the city and county of Philadelphia: in which bank no person shall be eligible for a director except he be a mechanic, actually engaged in his mechanical employment or occupation, and who has followed the same for the space of 1 year at least previous to his election, and shall cease to be a director when he shall cease to follow his mechanical occupation; 1 to be called the Commercial Bank of Pennsylvania; and the 3rd to be called the Schuylkill Bank in the city of Philadelphia. The county of Philadelphia shall be a district and may establish 2 banks, 1 to be called the Bank of Northern Liberties, the banking

house of which shall be kept north of Pegg's Run in the Northern Liberties, until otherwise determined by at least two thirds of the stockholders residing in the County of Philadelphia, at a special meeting called for that purpose, of which meeting public notice shall be given in four of the daily newspapers printed in the city of Philadelphia for 30 days previous to the time appointed for the said meeting and stating specially the object of such call: and the other bank to be called the Bank of Germantown, the banking house of which shall be kept in the village of Germantown.

SEC. 2. And it further be enacted, &c. That the following named persons shall be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to do and perform the several things hereafter directed, viz. Thomas Parker, Joseph Burden, Ephraim Clark, Robert Mercer, William Thackara Jr. and Joseph Morris (C) for the Mechanics Bank of the city and county of Philadelphia: Andrew Bayard, Wm. Newbold, Edward Carroll, Charles Pleasants and Henry Lentz for the Commercial Bank of Pennsylvania: Simon Gratz, Richard Bache, John Horner, Thomas M. Souder and Paul Beck Jr. for the Schuylkill Bank in the city of Philadelphia: Daniel Groves, John Thompson (S), Joseph Grice, John Naglee, Michael Baker, Joseph R. Jenks, Jesse Shelmire, John Taylor, George Gorgas, Frederick Foering and Daniel Bussier for the Bank of Northern Liberties; Samuel Harvey, William Fisher, John Conrad, Jacob Holgate, Joseph Starne and Michael Riter for the Bank of Germantown.

from Pennsylvania Correspondent
and Farmer's Advertiser

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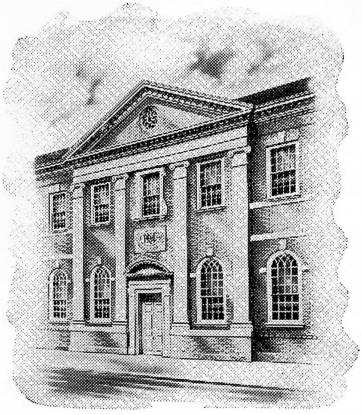
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