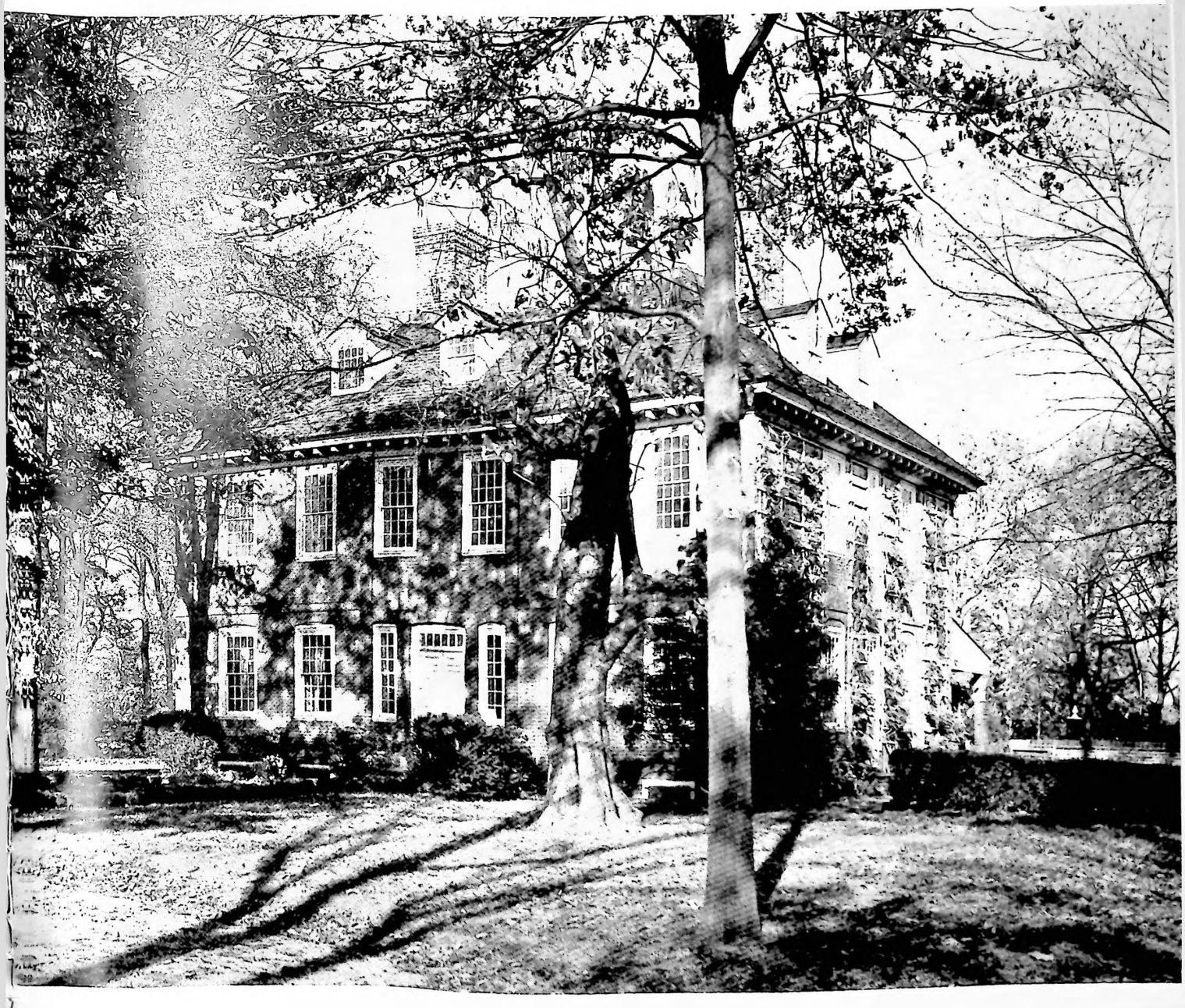
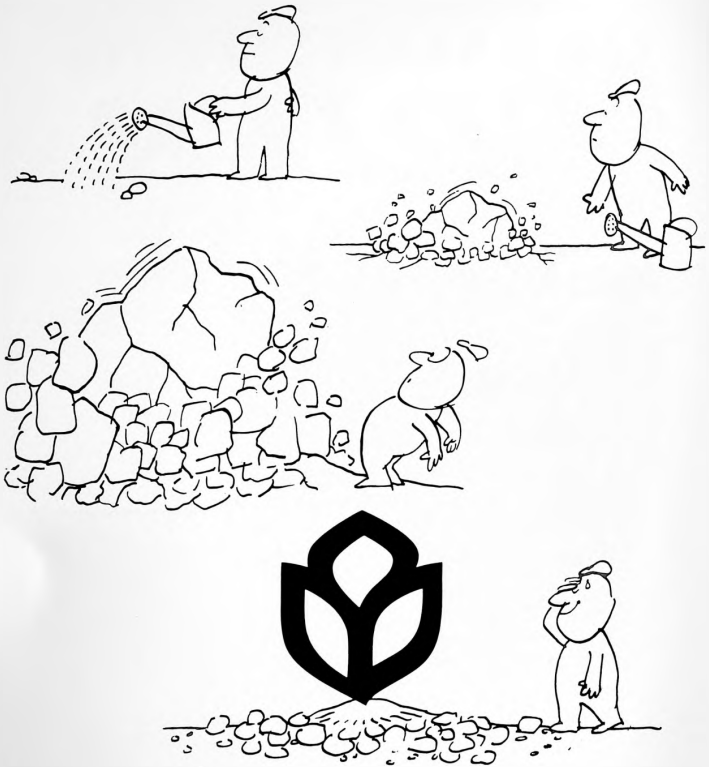
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(See story on page 55)

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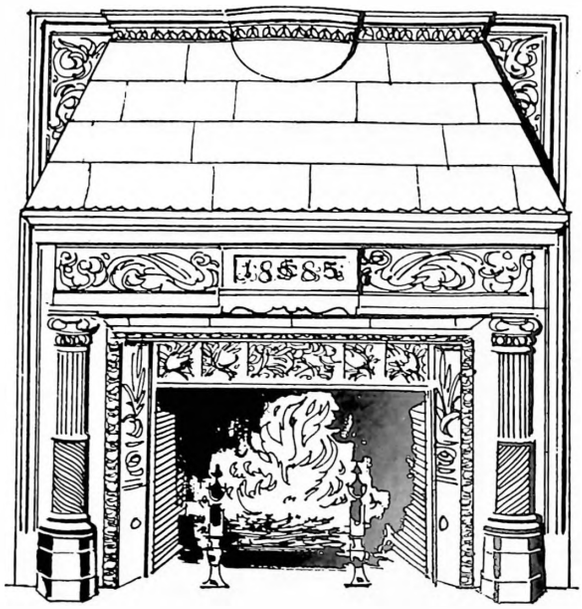
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Volume 20 | MAY, 1968 | Number 2

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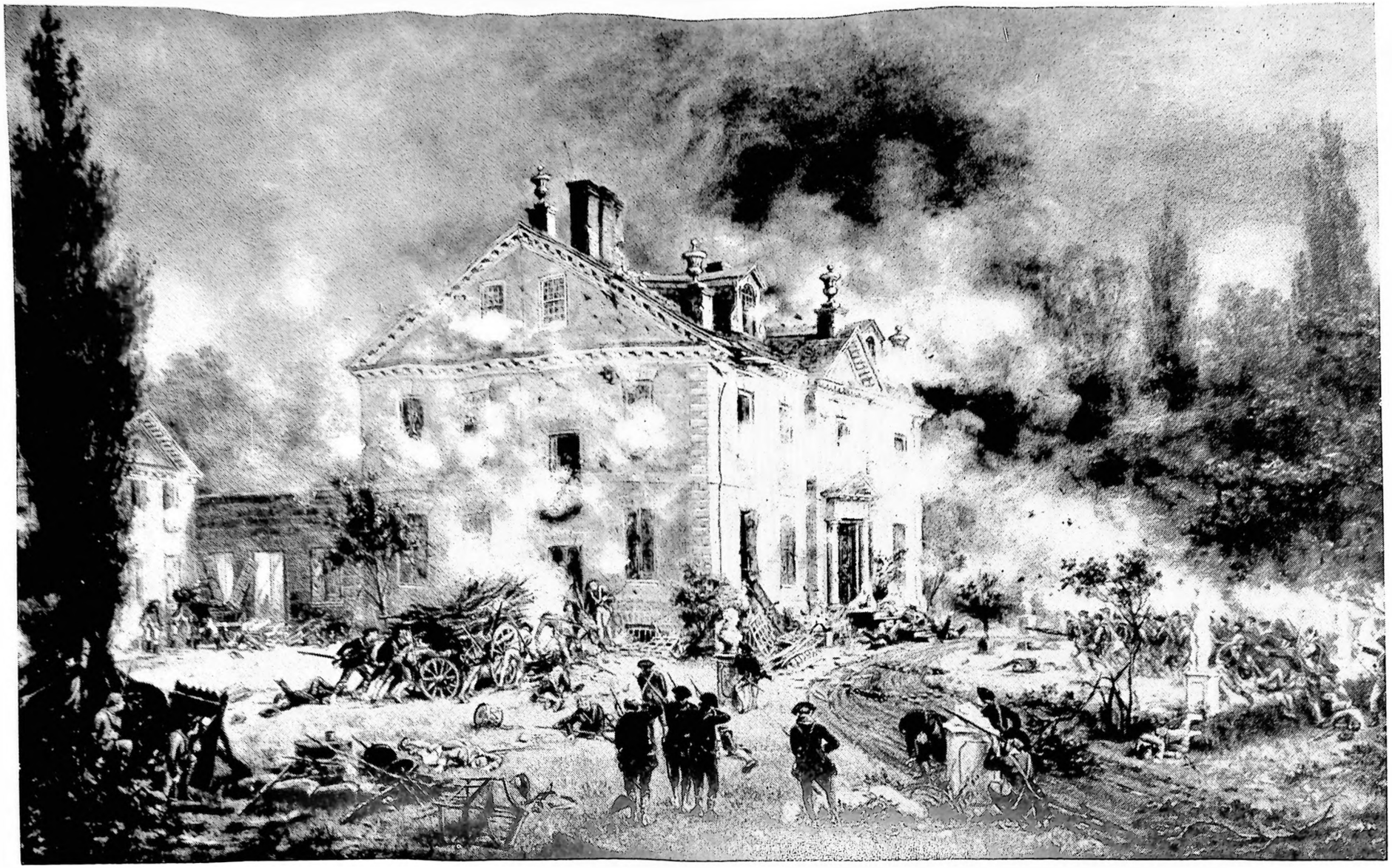
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"Our Jersey Brigade Suffered very much by storming a Strong Stone House in Jermantown which first Stopped our progress and I believe was one Great Cause for Brakeing our Line in that Quarter."

From letter written by Asher Holmes, October 6, 1777.

This picture of the Chew House during the Battle of Germantown is reproduced from the P.G.W. News, *Courtesy of the Philadelphia Gas Works.*

Asher Holmes and The Battle of Germantown

On October 6, 1966, Mrs. Alyce Lathrop of Holmdel, N.J., came to Germantown with a pre-conference tour of The National Trust for Historic Preservation. She visited Cliveden, Upsala, Stenton, and the museum of The Germantown Historical Society in the Conyngham-Hacker house. A relief map of the Battle of Germantown, displayed in the museum, inspired her to send us the material for this article.

ASHER HOLMES was born on his father's estate at Scotschester, N. J., in 1740. He was a descendant of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes who came to America from England in 1639 and settled in Newport, R. I. In 1665, Obadiah and Jonathon, the sons of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes, settled in what is now Pleasant Valley, N. J., on a tract of 1600 acres[1], called Scotschester. Samuel Holmes, the son of Obadiah, was born in 1704 and died in 1760. He lived his entire life at Scotschester. In 1731 he married Huldah Mott and his son, Asher Holmes was born in 1740.

Asher Holmes married Sarah Watson in 1771 and brought his bride to live in the house now known as Old Kentuck. The house is of Dutch design and is described as "pre-Revolutionary." The date of its construction is not known. The original building is the small wing shown to the right of the picture. The larger section was constructed in 1830. The house contains eleven rooms and six fireplaces. It is now Mrs. Lathrop's residence. During the Revolution Asher Holmes wrote letters to his young wife at this house. His descriptive letter of the Battle of Germantown, where the Monmouth Militia fought side by side with the troops of General Smallwood of Maryland is a priceless record of that engagement since there were no war correspondents in those days to record events.

Mrs. Lathrop tells us that,

> He (Asher Holmes) wrote a fine and disciplined hand and was a prolific letter-writer. He moved in and out of court with the same alacrity as in battle (over a mortgage on the property) and so historic society files bulge with his papers.

Asher Holmes was fundamentally a farmer as evidenced by an inventory of his father's estate (Scotschester) in 1753. "Land, 1620 acres, 55 cattle, 23 horses and mares, 92 sheep, 3 white servants, 2 negro men." This was Asher's home and what he was fighting to protect. Like many others he had much at stake in the Revolution.

Mrs. Lathrop says of Pleasant Valley,

> . . . a peaceful cradle of our nation's beginning, early stronghold of the Revolution, and home of the Holmes family from which Holmdel Township gets its name.[2]
>
> Old Kentuck is located on the road from Wickatunk to Holmdel (Pleasant Valley Road.) It is said that George Washington, astride the magnificent white steed of history-book fame, which had been lent him the night previous in Princeton, rallied the retreating troops of Col. Charles Lee and, as he viewed the valley from atop the wooded hill east of Old Kentuck, declared, "What a pleasant valley!" It has been known thus ever since. It once comprised the whole area south of Middletown Point (Matawan) to Freehold (Holmdel Village) and from Telegraph Hill, or the area now occupied by the Bell Laboratories, west to Big Woods, or Bradevelt, and Wickatunk[3].
>
> During the Revolution this valley was known as the "Hornets' Nest," due to the courageous activities of those early settlers who were pressed to defend their homes, the virtue of their wives, and the bountiful supply of worldly goods and foodstuffs their international trading, industry, and the good soil had provided. When an alert of a proposed raid was made, and there were many, or a new strategy was to be planned in the Battle of Monmouth, an iron cannon, mounted on the property of Captain Barnes Smock, let its roar be heard over the countryside and all the neighbors came running, some in shirt sleeves and barefooted, some astride and armed. So effective was this alarm that a raid, led by a mulatto named Tye, surprised Captain Smock, spiked up the cannon, and took him prisoner along with Gilbert Van Mater and two horses[4].
>
> The name Old Kentuck Plantation is obscure. The earliest mention we have is in a transfer of title dated 1817. The spelling and pronunciation varies through the years as did that of the State of Kentucky, being CAINTUCK, KANETUCK, KENTUCK, and even HAVETUCK, which we believe to be an error on the part of the scrivener. (pronounced Cain Took).
>
> Kentucky means "Blood and Thunder" or "Dark and Bloody Ground," The place may have been known originally as "Scotschester," a legal term, and earned the Blood and Thunder title from many years of exposure to pillage, skirmishes of war, and piracy by land and sea. Scotschester was the home of Samuel Holmes, son of Obadiah and father of Asher.



OLD KENTUCK

The home to which Asher Holmes addressed his letters written during the Revolutionary War.
Now the residence of Mrs. Alyce Lathrop



THE CHEW HOUSE—RECENT PHOTOGRAPH

In the battle scene (page 40) one will note a jagged black mark just to the left of the second floor side window nearest to the front of the mansion. This was caused by a Continental cannon ball, and the scar still appears in present-day photos. The carved ornaments on the grounds today were also there at the time of the battle.

Photos of house and battle painting by Henry Bartle, Courtesy of Customer Service Department, Philadelphia Gas Works.

Such was the background of Asher Holmes. Though all of his family contributed to the formation of the new nation, no one member so distinguished himself in civic and patriotic affairs as did Asher.

It is certain that Asher Holmes never forgot his first visit to Germantown. He came as a colonel of the Monmouth Militia on Germantown's most historic morning, October 4, 1777. He gives an account of his experience in a letter written to his wife two days after the battle.

To Mrs. Sarah Holmes
in Freehold
Favored by Mr. Logan

Camp on the Mountains
Near Perka Omie Creek
29 miles West from
Philadelphia

Octr. 6th, 1777

Dear Sally the Day Before Yesterday there was a General Engagement. The first part of the Day Was Much in our favor. We drove the Enemy for some miles, General How Had Given order for his army to Retreat over School Kill River, but the after part of the day was unfavorable to us, our Line of Battle was Broke and we obliged to Retreat the Battle was Near Jirmantown, the attack was made by Different Divisions in Different Quarters Nearly at the same time, but the Morning being very foggy was much against us, and the Severe Firing added to the thickness of the air which prevented our seeing very far, therefore a Great Disadvantage to us. . . . the Jersey Militia and Red Cross under General Forman & the Mary Land Militia with some Listed troops under General Smallwood was on the Left Wing of the whole Army. We drove the Enemy when we first made the Attack but by the thickness of the fog the Enemy got in our Rear therefore had to change our front and then retreated until a proper place. General Mac dugle's Listed men to the right of us, & General Green's Listed Men then formed to the Left of us, but they all Gave Way Except the Monmouth Militia & General Forman's Red Coats. Stood firm and advanced upon the British Red Coats Who was at least three times our number, to a fence where we made a stand the fire was very severe, and the Enemy ran, they then Brought a field piece to fire on us with Grape Shot but our Monmouth men stood firm until their ammunition was Nearly Expended, and the Enemy advancing Round our Right Flank. General Forman then ordered us to Retreat which we did in pretty good order, until our Continental troops broke and Run a second time and their running through our men Broke them Entirely—Our Jersey Brigade Suffered very much by storming a Strong Stone House in Jermantown which first stopped our progress and I Believe Was one Great Cause for Breaking our Line in that Quarter I have seen brother John Holmes, Capt. Mott, Capt. Burrows, and Bostwick, and most of our Monmouth officers who are all well since the Battle. Our army in good spirits. Altho our Duty has been very Severe, The night before the Battle our men marched all Night & and had very little sleep the night after . . . providence seems to have protected our Monmouth Militia in a perticular Manner as we have lost but very few if any killed and not many wounded, Although the Enemy was within 120 yards of us, in the hotest of the fire & their field firing on us With Grape Shot Great Part of the time—I have escaped without being hurt altho I was much Expos'd to Enemy's fire—

from your ever Effectionate
ASHER HOLMES

A Map of
Historic Germantown

Designed by J. Riegel, Jr.

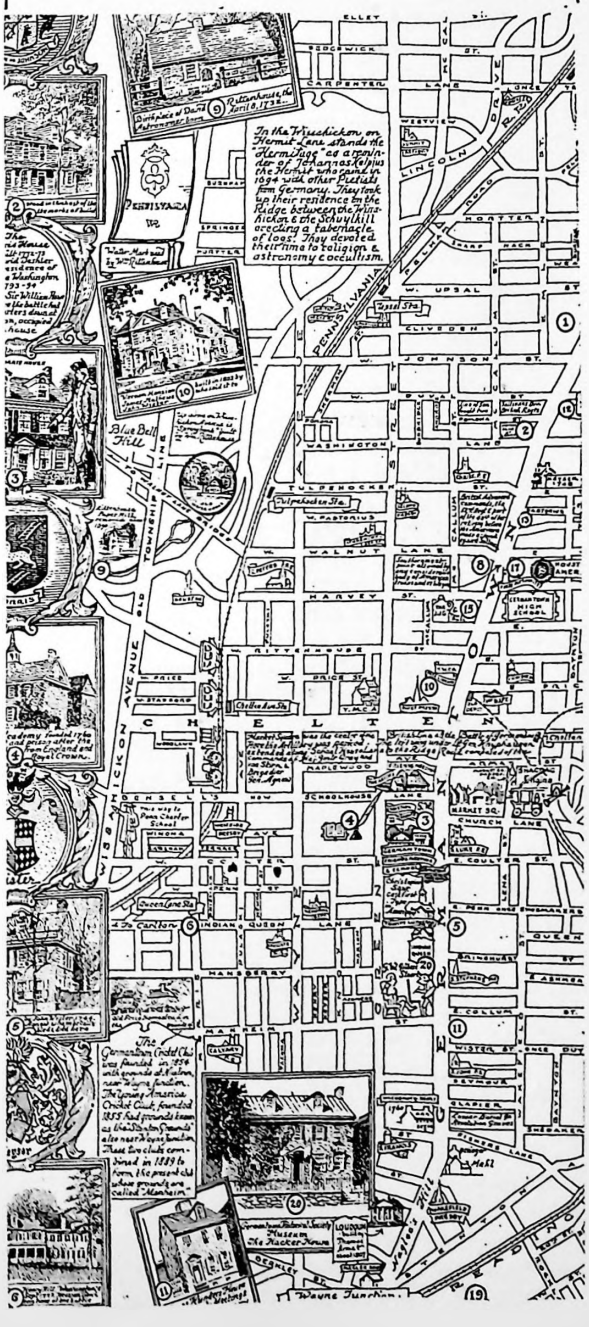
This detailed map, elaborated with numerous sketches, shows the locations of streets, historic buildings, churches, etc. It is replete with data concerning local people, places, and events.

Size: 19 by 25 inches
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Beautifully hand-colored, $25.00

The map may be ordered from:

Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr.
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Checks should be made payable to Captain Crenshaw.



Koert Schenk, a companion-in-arms of Asher Holmes, has left us an account of the battle which coincides with the Holmes letter. It has come to us from oral history of the Schenck family[5].

> At the Battle of Germantown great-great-grandfather said Gen. Forman acted in a brave manner. The company loaded and fired as fast as they could until word came to retreat. Koert Schenck's musket became so hot he could not hold his hand on it. His company fought on the edge of a wood and after the first discharge or two there was so much smoke they could scarcely see. Before they began to fire they were told to take good aim as the wind would probably blow smoke in their faces so they would not be able to see, and particularly to shoot low. The British shot over the patriots' heads and cut off branches of the trees above them. Our soldiers were ardent to retreat as they were in a fair way to be surrounded. With Koert Schenck were one Van Dorn and one Holmes. Holmes wanted to stop and wait until he could select from the canteens lying around one that was well filled, but as they were running for their lives this they declined to do. Holmes, however, persevered and finally found one filled with what proved to be a superior article of Jamaica rum, which afterward, in camp was just what they needed.

The reader of these two letters is forced to conclude that Asher Holmes was a cool hand under fire and had a canny eye to the future, characteristic in keeping with his record of accomplishments which may be listed as follows:

Member of Committee of Correspondence, 1774. (Grew into the Continental Congress)
Member of the Committee of Observation and Inspection, 1774
Member of Legislative Constitution Council, 1786-88. (Same as State Senate)
The first of 464 signers of Articles of Association formed in 1778 to protect Middletown homes from plunder by refugees from Sandy Hook and Pine Robbers.
Leader of Militia in attack on Loyalists in 1778.
Guard of Monmouth Shore, 1780.
Musted-master of Monmouth County, 1780.
Commander of a battalion of Monmouth Militia, 1780.
Battalion Commander, State Troops, 1780.
Corporator (Trustee) Baptist Church, Middletown, 1793.
First signer of a purchase of land dedicated to the establishment of an academy, or high school in Holmdel. 1793.

Asher Holmes' war letters were addressed to his wife in Freehold. Subsequently the town became Baptistown and it is now Holmdel.

Asher Holmes is buried in the Holmdel Baptist Cemetery. His headstone reads,

ASHER HOLMES

Who departed this life June 20, 1808, Aged 68 years
A valiant Patriot of the American Revolution
Col., First Regiment Monmouth County, N. J.
Militia at battles of Germantown, Pa., and
Monmouth. Engagements at Highlands of
Navesink, Conushonk, & Pleasant Valley, N. J.
Captured English Privateer, Britanica, at Shoal
Harbor, N. J. (Port Monmouth).

(1) Holmes papers, New Jersey Historical Society Archives
(2) *History of Monmouth County, N.J.* Ellis, 1885, p.813
(3) *Homes of Early Dutch Settlers in New York and in New Jersey,* Rosalie Fellows Bailey
(4) *Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth County, N.J.,* Beekman, Moreau Press, 1901. p.77
(5) Mr. S.M. Schenck, Hightstown, N.J., page 214 Hornor's *This Old Monmouth of Ours,* Moreau Bros. Freehold, N.J.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

Interested persons are invited to obtain further information by contacting the chairman of the Membership Committee:

Mrs. Arthur E. Weil
3912 Netherfield Road
Philadelphia, Pa. 19129
(Telephone: VIctor 3-1067)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 18, 1968, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Annual Tour of Old Houses. Details are given in this issue of *The Crier.*

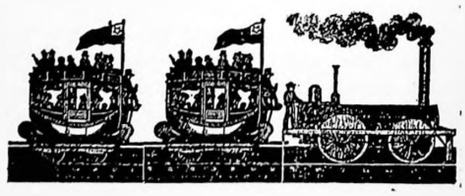
Thursday, June 6, 1968, 7:30 P.M.

Annual Garden Party at the museum of the Germantown Historical Society, 5214 Germantown Avenue, followed by a meeting in the parish hall of Trinity-Lutheran Church. Mrs. Henry R. (Dorothy Saylor) Hallowell will speak on "Travels in Peru."

Saturday, June 22, 1968, 10 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

First annual Germantown clothesline art exhibit, antique show and fair. To be held in, and on the grounds of, the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, Greene and Tulpehocken Streets, Germantown.

(See story on page 57)





Sarah Josepha Hale and Julia Evelina Smith

By HELEN K. GREENAWAY

Here is a story of two strong-minded ladies of the nineteenth century. Mrs. Greenaway tells of their activities and convinces the reader that there were serious social problems even in the good old days.

IN JUNE of the year 1812 a young woman, travelling from Albany, N. Y. to Hartford Connecticut, was crowded into a stage coach with an assortment of other passengers, among them two men who, for the sake of privacy, were conversing in French. The young woman, who was christened Julietta Evelina Smith, politely interrupted the gentlemen and explained that she understood French. The men looked rather surprised, thanked her, and carried on the conversation in Latin, but in a moment she interrupted them again. She understood that too. Greek was then resorted to but this also was understood by this remarkable young woman.

At the time this incident occurred another young woman, by the name of Sarah Josepha Buell, was teaching school in Newport, New Hampshire—and giving her pupils a taste of Latin. How much these girls would have had in common could they have met in those days. As it was, each was to know about the other in future years—as each made a great contribution to furthering the status of women in the United States; Sarah through her *Godey's Lady's Book,* Julia through her cows.

Both women had unusually intelligent parents and the parents of both girls were born in Connecticut. Sarah's parents, who were raised in Kellingsworth, Conn., were given a 400 acre tract of land in the township of Newport, New Hampshire, on what is now known as East Mountain, overlooking the Sugar River. There they raised four children who were given their early schooling by their mother. Horatio Gates, the second son, went to Dartmouth College and, when he came home for his summer vacations, he would impart to his sister, Sarah Josepha, all that he had learned. Like a sponge Sarah absorbed the knowledge he passed on and, by the time she was eighteen, she had acquired, in an unorthodox way, a college education and began to teach school. By then her family had moved into the town of Newport and her father was running a tavern where she met David Hale, a young lawyer from Alstead, N. H., who had come to town to hang out his shingle. She married him in 1813 and, while she bore

him five children, she continued her education under his tutelage. Years later she wrote:

> He commenced for me a system of study and reading which we pursued while he lived. The hours allotted were from eight to ten at night. He aimed to enlighten my reason, strengthen my judgement, and give me confidence in my own powers of mind which he estimated more highly than I. How I enjoyed those hours!

Let us leave Sarah studying and raising her family and examine the family of Julietta Evelina Smith of Glastonbury, Connecticut. Her father was a graduate of Yale College and a lawyer. His wife was a woman of unusual attainments. Taught by her father, she had become an excellent linguist, mathematician, and astronomer. Her father had even bulit her an observatory on the roof of their house. This couple had five daughters whom they saddled with some fearful names. Hancy Zephina was the oldest, then came Cyrinthia Lucretia, Laurilla Aleroya, Juliette Abelinda, which her father later changed to Julia Evelina, after Miss Burney's three volume novel which was so popular at that time, and Abby Hadassah, the youngest, born in June, 1797. These children were educated at their mother's knee and what an education. At the age of eighteen Julia was keeping a diary entirely in French. It was that diary which first interested me in the Smith sisters. While I was working in the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford this diary was given to the library. It was my job to examine it and catalogue it. Covering a period of thirty-two years, I could watch the development of Julia's mind and see her ideas mature and from it I was able to draw a picture of this extraordinary family. In a way it was disappointing for it lacked romance and humor, but it gave an excellent account of what a cultured, small-town family of that period was like. Hancy, Julia tells us, showed an interest in engineering and built a boat of sorts which she sailed on the Connecticut River. Laurella was blossoming into an artist and literally wanted to paint all over the house. Julia and Abby rather withdrew from the family and lived in an intellectual world together.

In January, 1823, Julia made an entry in her diary which was destined to mean much to her,

> Friday, I got up with the sun. It rained in the night. I have finished the drawers. Drove out in the sleigh this afternoon with Cyrinthia. Called at Mrs. Holmes' and Mr. Ramsey's. We found two letters at the post office, one for our grandmother and the other for Laurilla from Mrs. Willard of Troy. She wants Laurilla to come to Troy, live with her and teach French in her school. She wants to come in six weeks. My sister wants to go.

What an opportunity—to be asked by none other than Mrs. Emma Hart Willard, pioneer in the field of education for women, to teach in her school. Mrs. Willard, herself a Connecticut woman, undoubtedly knew the Smith family well and appreciated more than their Glastonbury neighbors, the magnitude of the intellectual qualities to be found there. On January 13, Julia writes:

> My sister Laurilla has written Mrs. Willard that she will go to Troy in February. I am angry. I'd like it better for her to stay at home with the family but she wants to go.

And Laurilla went, Julia's feelings to the contrary. But on June 26th she writes again,

> Phoebe Ann came home from school and said there was a letter for me at the post office and I went after it. It was from Laurilla. She wants me to go live with her. I don't want to but I suppose I will because my mother and sisters desire it.

Please notice she does not mention her father's desires in the matter. It was a woman's world, that Smith house in Glastonbury, and father's duty as far as I have been able to discover, was to bring home the bacon—in silence.

So Julia, too, went to Troy to teach in Mrs. Willard's school. There is a long account of her trip and a day by day record of her duties during the year. Mrs. Willard's name often appears. She was loved by both the sisters and they kept in touch with her the rest of her life. But Julia was never happy there. She ailed a lot, toothache being her most common complaint. In April she came home (It was on that trip she met the gentlemen who spoke French). That night she wrote:

> Oh how lovely it is here, the garden, the yard, the trees. I will not return to Troy for a long time—if ever.

Let's now leave the Smiths to their intellectual, charitable, and civic pursuits and return to Sarah Hale and her lawyer husband. They were very happy indeed but during her second pregnancy Sarah began to "decline", as they put it in those days. The doctor said she had quick consumption and gave her husband no hope for her recovery. Years later she told her grandchildren that one evening David, was reading aloud to her as she reclined on the sofa when, right in the middle of a sentence, he suddenly closed the book and walked out of the house. He was gone a long while. When he came back he picked her up in his arms and said, "Listen, you are not going to die. I won't *let* you."

The next morning they left the children with her brother's family and, in a gig, started on a trip through the White Mountains. Every day, for six weeks, they drove through the beautiful fall weather and she ate grapes. They had heard of "The Grape Cure" and David had decided to try it on her. He also had a theory that lots of fresh air was good for sick lungs. The doctor swore David would bring her back dead—but he brought her home cured. Ever after that, wherever she was she had fresh grapes in her room to eat.

But the sad anticlimax to this story is that three years later David Hale died very suddenly of pneumonia and the widow was left to bring up four children.

Friends helped her out. Hale's brother Masons established the widow and her sister-in-law, Miss Hannah Hale, in the millinery business. This was a distinct failure and her only pleasure was writing poetry. Again

the Masons helped her out and published in 1823 "The Genius of Oblivion and Other Original Poems." While, by today's standards, it is a poor poem, it had some sale, and started her writing in earnest. In 1827, she published her first novel,, "Northwood" which was an instant success. Soon after she was asked by a publishing firm in Boston to become the editor of *The Ladies Magazine,* the first literary work exclusively devoted to women ever published in America. And so, at the age of forty, Sarah Josepha Hale left Newport with her five children to live in Boston, on her way to become one of the greatest editors of the nineteenth century.

But Mrs. Hale was a mother first. Uppermost in her mind, since the day her husband died, was the education of her children. And here was her opportunity. She settled near Harvard College so her three boys could go there when the time came and eventually sent her two girls to Mrs. Willard's in Troy—but some years after our Smith sisters had taught there.

Mrs. Hale went to Boston with some ideas about education, about the rights of women, about domestic science, about health and sanitation, and she used *The Ladies Magazine* as a sounding board. She also identified herself with the life of Boston and, as she saw things which needed to be done, wrote about them. At the time she went to Boston the Bunker Hill monument was a disgrace. The cornerstone had been laid in 1825. Daniel Webster had made the dedicatory address. Lafayette was there— and then the project fell flat. By 1824 the money gave out. The monument was only partly done and the huge rocks ready to do another eighteen feet lay scattered over the hill. In 1834 a few more feet were built and then it stood unfinished and unsightly. There began to be talk of tearing it down. Then Mrs. Hale, the daughter of a Revolutionary officer, had an idea. Through the editorial page of her magazine she suggested that the women give the money to finish the monument. This was an outrageous idea. First, if the men couldn't how could the women, for their money came from the men? Second, the men of the Bunker Hill Committee said they wouldn't take money from the women—but they soon changed their minds. Thirdly, never before had a fund soliciting campaign been carried on by a magazine, and a women's magazine at that.

Mrs. Hale knew how to pour oil on troubled waters. She wrote:

> We offer our assistance as helpers only. The efforts of the ladies will not degrade the character of men.

Though this campaign failed to complete the monument, ten years later, and by then she had a powerful following of women, she organized a fair, a woman's fair. By this time her magazine had been amalgamated with *Godey's Lady's Book,* published in Philadelphia with a wide circulation, and she enlisted all of these women.

Quincy Hall, the largest in Boston, was hired and in September, 1840, the fair opened. Women from Maine to the Carolinas and Ohio contributed their hand work. There was for sale knitting, crochetry, patchwork quilts, jellies, conserves, and pickles—and the decorations of the booths, a sight in themselves—all done by women. The fair lasted seven days and contributed $30,000 to the monument. Inspired by this several other large amounts were given and so, in 1843, Daniel Webster made his second address at the monument. "This monument stands on union," he declaimed—but not necessarily the Union he was thinking about. It stood on the union of women.

Boston during these years was a busy seaport. A sailor's life was often a short one and the city contained many sailor's widows and their children who were destitute. The mothers, and their children too, worked in slop shops for a pittance. Mrs. Hale, herself, a widow with a family to support, was furious at the way these women were exploited. She organized the Seaman's Aid Society. "This society," she wrote Mathew Carey in Philadelphia, "has determined to open a clothing shop for the purpose of furnishing work to the families of seamen and we shall pay them reasonable prices." She had a fight on her hands because the men who ran the slop shops fought back with no holds barred—but she won out.

By this time her children had grown up. The oldest, David Emerson had been given an appointment to West Point and was graduated eighth in rank in his class. He served in the army and died at Plattsburg where he was stationed in 1839.

Among the Hale letters at the Pennsylvania Historical Society is one written in 1840 to a J. R. Poinsett in which she asks that her youngest son be admitted as a cadet to West Point.

> He is eighteen, now a junior at Harvard and allowed to be the first scholar in his class and one of the most promising in mathematics—. I do not beg pardon for this intrusion for I feel sure that your own generous heart will find an excuse for a mother whose only source of deep interest in this world is to promote the public good by training her children to become useful and worthy members of society.

William Hale did not go to West Point. He finished at Harvard, was admitted to the bar of Virginia and then went to Galveston, Texas where he became renowned for handling Spanish claims which flooded the Texas courts when it separated from Mexico. His cases are still used as models of argument.

Horatio Hale graduated from Harvard and became an eminent philologist. He went on the Wilkes expedition to the Antarctic and wrote an authoritative book on it. Later he did research in languages among the American Indians.

Frances Ann married Dr. Louis Boudinot Hunter of Princeton and Philadelphia, a naval surgeon, and supplied the lady editor with many grandchildren and a home in Philadelphia in which she spent the last decades of her life.

Her namesake never married but opened a school for young ladies on Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia where she could put to use some of her mother's precepts and training.

Mrs. Hale had managed to edit the *Godey's Lady's Book* from Boston until her last chick was out of the nest. Then she went to Philadelphia to live. Again she was accepted into that city's society as she had been in Boston. Here, in her magazine, she championed the steam engine and sent Eliza Leslie on a trip from Philadelphia to Niagara which she reported,

> The trip to Niagara and return could be made by steamboat and steam cars in a week—and the whole expense to each person need not exceed fifty dollars including everything.

The *Godey's Lady's Book* was a veritable gold mine for the housewife. It gave her advice on how to build her house, how to plan meals and cook them, how to make her clothes and bring up her children. Mrs. Hale promoted any machine which saved the woman time or work. The egg beater, the double boiler, and the Singer Sewing Machine were among her pets. She also asked her readers to invent a washing machine and this too paid off. Nor did she neglect her readers cultural side. She published stories by Poe, poetry by Longfellow, Holmes, and Whittier.

Ever since her own brush with death she had been interested in health, hygiene, and medicine so when Elizabeth Blackwell tried to enter a medical school to study to be a doctor and was turned down by them all in New England and the South, Mrs. Hale championed her. Miss Blackwell, some eight years later, did enter the Geneva Medical School of Western New York. The clergy and the press denounced her as "mad or bad" all of which stirred Mrs. Hale to go to bat, not only for Miss Blackwell but she decided that something should be done about the casual practice of midwifery and she commenced a campaign to license them.

Back in Boston one of her friends had been Oliver Wendell Holmes and she had his support. She fought for a nursing profession. She wrote articles upholding the use of anesthesia, calling it "the precious panacea of pain," and defended Dr. William Morton, the first to use ether, when he was blasphemed by the public. Finally she was most instrumental in the incorporation in 1849, of the Female Medical College of Philadelphia.

Another Philadelphia institution which she helped found with Mrs. Sarah Peters was the School of Design for Women. This too is a thriving establishment today.

Around 1846, Mrs. Hale commenced a campaign which was to last seventeen years. She wrote at that time, "We have too few holidays. Thanksgiving, like the fourth of July, should be considered a national festival and observed by all our people." She continued to editorialize about it and wrote many letters to distinguished people pleading her cause. By 1852 she announced, "Last year twenty-nine states and all territories united in the festival. This year we trust that Virginia and Vermont will come into this arrangement —." In 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a day of National Thanksgiving and Mrs. Hale had another of her dreams come true.

And what was the Lady Editor doing about the Civil War? Oddly enough, nothing. Her editorial policy from the beginning of the magazine made politics and religion taboo. Therefore, through these critical years she carries on as though no war was being fought. Was this Mr. Godey's decision? If so, she was a fighter so why didn't she fight that?

During her editorship of *Godey's Lady's Book* she was also publishing fiction, books of etiquette, cook books, and little volumes of verse for children in which appeared "Mary Had a Little Lamb." This poem was first written for a music teacher in Boston who wanted some verses he could set to music for his young pupils.

The book Mrs. Hale considered her most important work was "Woman's Record or Sketches of All Distinguished Women from the Beginning until A.D. 1850." It was considered a standard reference book for many years.

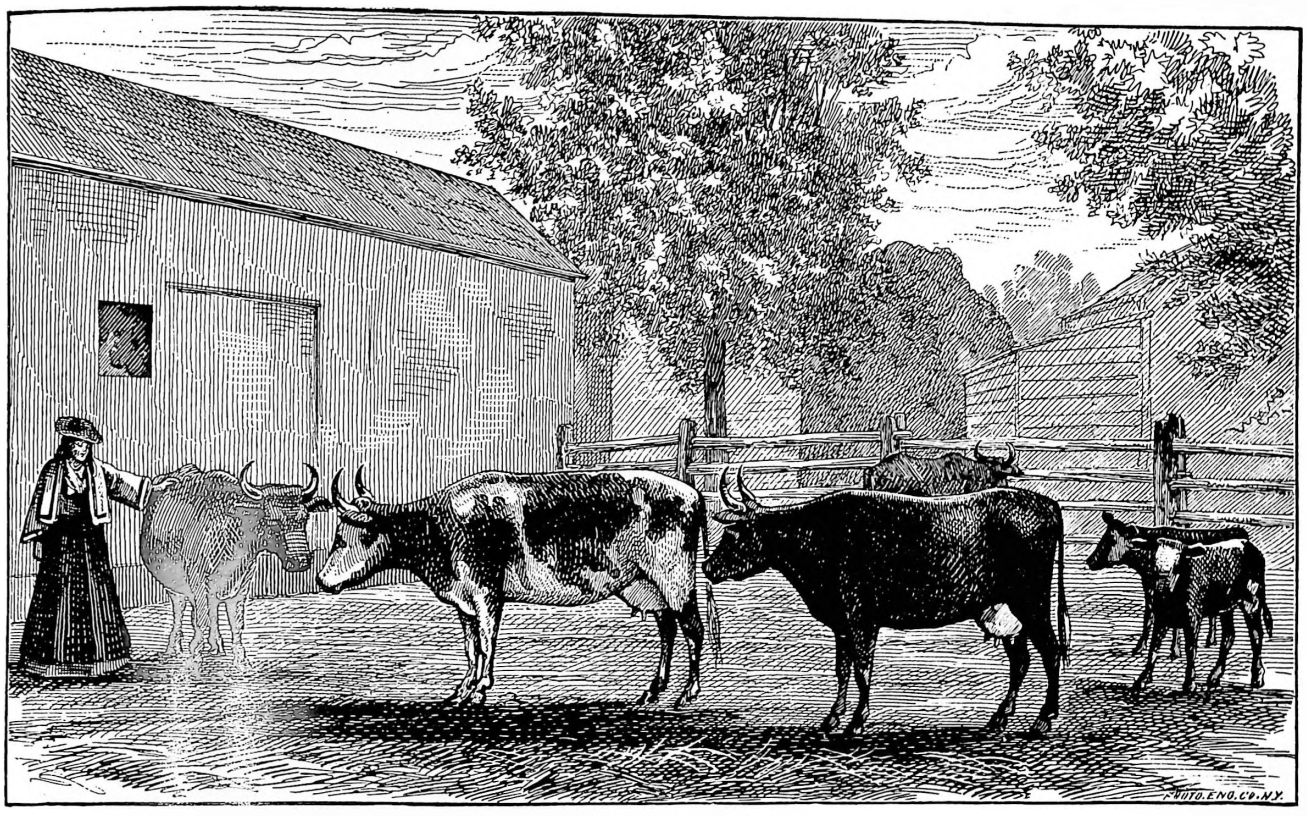
Soon after the Civil War Matthew Vassar founded Vassar Female College. Mrs. Hale applauded the founding of the institution but she was infuriated at its being called a *female* college. One did not say Harvard Male College! A female, she maintained, was not necessarily a woman. Why set woman apart as inferior mentally and emotionally to man? Why class her as something less than human? Letters flew between Mrs. Hale and Mr. Vassar and finally the stone carved over the entrance door of the college with the word Female was removed leaving Vassar College, the gap between being a symbol of the honor of womanhood.

Many other campaigns for education and for women were waged by Mrs. Hale, and, with it all she continued to edit *Godey's Lady's Book* until 1877, a span of nearly fifty years. Reluctantly, at the age of ninety, she retired.

And what had the Sisters Smith of Glastonbury been doing during these war years? Reading *Godey's Lady's Book* no doubt, along with attending temperance meetings, distributing the Charter Oak, an antislavery newspaper, and becoming involved in the slavery issue by writing articles to the local newspapers and sewing for the poor negresses in the community. Julia wrote in her diary, "I went at eight o'clock with Mrs. Hall to Sunday School to teach the negresses. The mother of two of them cannot read."

But this was not enough. The Smiths wrote a petition to Congress to protest slavery and had it signed by several hundred women in the Glastonbury vicinity. It was presented to Congress by John Quincy Adams in January of 1840.

However, it was not until three of the sisters had died and Julia and Abby were over eighty years old that they assumed national prominence.



ABBY SMITH AND HER COWS

In June, 1869, Abby and Julia Smith, who owned one of the richest farm lands in Glastonbury, were approached by the overseer of the highway and asked to pay a bill of $18.00 which was not due until fall. He needed the money, he told the sisters, to pay the laborers and he could not at the time get it from the Glastonbury men. The Smiths were always glad to be of assistance to the community, as their many philanthropic activities indicated, and therefore paid the overseer. In September, however, a bill for the same amount was again rendered. He could not explain it and, being a Republican, read her the town report hoping to impress her with how poorly the Democrats governed the town. Among the expenditures listed was $700.00 for registering the names of voters.

Julia was astounded at such profligate spending of the taxpayers' money, especially since several of the large taxpayers were women and could not be registered voters and, therefore, had no share in assessing and spending the tax money.

She left the overseer with the remark, "If the town officials are going on at this rate I must go to that suffrage meeting in Hartford and see if we cannot do better, for I have no doubt one woman would write down every name in town for half that money."

In 1872 the sisters again had an opportunity to question the Glastonbury method of collecting taxes. When the collector called they noticed that their assessment was $100.00 more than usual. Upon inquiry the sisters found that only they and two widows in the neighborhood had been similarly treated. They paid the tax but were so provoked that Abby declared that she would go to the next town meeting and tell the fathers what she thought of such partiality.

On December 5, 1873, the two old ladies appeared at the town hall. Abby obtained permission to speak, her argument being that, because they were "without the ballot, the most serviceable weapon of protest, the Glastonbury men had extorted from them a disproportionate share of taxes."

The address was quietly listened to and its suggestions were scrupulously ignored, but the *Springfield Republican* heard of the incident and six days later printed the speech word for word, introducing it with a note about the sisters and their cause. Immediately other newspapers printed the story. Fuel was added to the fire on January 3rd, 1874, when the collector appeared and demanded the tax. The sisters refused to pay and, consequently, he attached their seven Alderney cows for a tax of $101.39.

These were no ordinary cows for they had been raised personally by Julia who loved every one of them, and apparently they loved her for the men had great difficulty in leading them away and were unable to get the usual amount of milk. The cows disturbed the neighborhood by lowing all night long.

On January eighth the Glastonbury folk saw an odd procession pass down the main street toward the signpost. It was headed by the collector leading the best cow and, followed by the other cows driven by four men

with a dog and a drum. Behind them were several teams and in the last wagon were the Smith sisters with their Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg. Someone remarked that it looked like a funeral.

At the signpost about forty men had gathered and they bid so low that the four best cows were sold below their value before the tax amount was covered.

Again the *Springfield Republican* applauded the Smiths. They wrote:

> Abby Smith and her sister as truly stand for the American principle as did the citizens who ripped open the tea chests in Boston harbour or the farmers who leveled their muskets at Concord.

The editorial ended with the suggestion that subscriptions for an Abby Smith defense fund were in order.

Within a few days money began to roll in. Isabella Beecher Hooker enclosed $5.00 and wrote, "I am not sure that 'kine couchant' on the grassy slope of the beautiful Connecticut should not be adopted as the emblem of our peaceful suffrage banner . . ." An anonymous letter bearing $100.00 came from Newburyport, probably from William Lloyd Garrison.

The sisters were entirely unprepared for the avalanche of publicity they received. Although money was contributed they refused to accept it. Resolutions were passed by the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Suffrage Associations and the Smiths spoke at meetings of these organizations.

In April the sisters appeared at an electors' meeting in Glastonbury and this time were refused the right to speak. Outside the town house was an old wagon and mounting this Abby, now seventy-seven years old, addressed the curious group of men who had followed her out of the hall.

She made a logical and stirring plea but it did not keep the collector from calling five days later. Again they refused to pay the tax and as a result eleven acres of their best meadow land was auctioned off for a tax of $49.83. The land brought $78.35 although good meadow land at the time was worth $150.00 an acre. This resulted in a lawsuit brought by the sisters against the tax collector. In view of the obviousness of the law requiring the sale of Moveable property for taxes before that of real estate, the case was decided in their favor. More lawsuits followed. More cows were sold at the signpost, and the sisters became renowned.

In 1876, while the tax battle was still raging, Julia again received newspaper publicity by publishing her translation the Bible. In the preface of her work she says she wrote out the Bible five times, twice from the Greek, twice from the Hebrew, and once from the Latin. It was well received by the public. "The Alderney Edition," a Hartford minister called it.

Amos A. Lawrence wrote Miss Julia saying, "You remember that the Devil was said to be afraid of the Bible in Martin Luther's time. So now, according to your account, the selectmen of Glastonbury and the lawyers begin to dread the appearance of the new translation. May the result be the same as in Luther's time, and may Glastonbury become as renowned as Wittenburg."

And the following year Julia published a ninety-four page pamphlet entitled, "Abby Smith and Her Cows, with a Report of the Law Case Decided Contrary to Law." This pamphlet was to be the last formidable attack of the sisters upon the Glastonbury "tyrants." In 1877 Abby died and a few months later Julia, now eighty-seven years old, married eighty-nine year old Amos A. Parker of Fitzwilliam, N. H. The marriage was not a happy one. Judge Parker had little sympathy for his wife's social reforms and, had he refused to pay the taxes, could have been thrown in jail.

On the 6th of March, 1886, Julia died. In her Bible were found the instructions for her burial. She especially requested that her maiden name, rather than her married name, be put on her tombstone. In so doing she once more allied herself with a woman's reform party, this time with the Lucy Stone League.



HOME OF ABBY AND JULIA SMITH
Still Standing in Glastonbury, Conn.

Thus passed the Sisters Smith. The people who still remember them speak of them as cranks and, as a shining example, tell about the time Abby and Julia went to Washington to see the President and never took a suitcase with them for they wore their changes of costume, merely putting the one they wanted, day or night, on top. People say they did not hobnob with their neighbors. They did not go to church. A minister was not allowed to officiate at their funerals.

Whatever eccentricities the ladies may have had they also had a profound respect for the freedom of the individual and were willing to take an active part in making that freedom a reality. In a day when a greater freedom is at stake the efforts of these two little old ladies in the small town of Glastonbury, Connecticut, are a challenge.

So passed into history the life work of Mrs. Hale and the Smith sisters. These women have been unhonored and unsung. Only within the last ten years, a Sarah Josepha Hale gold medal has been awarded to a distinguished author by the trustees of the Newport, N. H., Richards Library. No doubt most of the recipients of that award had to look in an encyclopedia to find out who Mrs. Hale was. As to the Smith Sisters, I once asked a group of members of the League of Women Voters in Hartford, Conn. what they knew about these ladies. They had never heard of them!

It is hoped that this introduction to these remarkable nineteenth century women will, as we sit down to Thanksgiving dinner or cast our votes in the November election, make us aware of the gratitude we owe to those who have played such a large part in making these events possible.

MORRIS HOUSE

The roster of volunteer hostesses for the Morris House has been so depleted by illness that there is an urgent need for replacements.

While there must be many members of the Germantown Historical Society who would gladly serve if they realized our need, we do not rule out interested people who are not members.

It can be an interesting and rewarding three hours, sharing the beauty and history of the Deschler-Morris House with visitors from all parts of the United States as well as foreign Countries.

The house is open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. every day except Monday and anyone who feels she can spare an afternoon a month please call Mrs. Frank Monteith (Chairman, Hostess Committee. Phone, GE 8-1613).

Publications of the Germantown Historical Society

Magazine

The GERMANTOWN CRIER, published in March, May, September, and December, is available at the subscription rate of $1.50 annually.

Nearly all of the seventy past numbers of the CRIER are currently available. A complete assortment of available back issues may be had for $7.50, postage paid.

Individual copies of the CRIER can be obtained for 40¢ each.

Pamphlets

BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN ..... 25¢

EARLY GERMANTOWN *by* Judge Harold D. Saylor 25¢

WASHINGTON VISITS GERMANTOWN *by* Charles F. Jenkins ..... 50¢

No. 2—EARLY TRANSPORTATION TO GERMANTOWN *by* Naaman H. Keyser, D.D.S.; THE CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE *by* Romaine Keyser. Illustrated. 36 pages. ..... 50¢

No. 3—DRAMATIC FEATURES OF PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY *by* Hampton L. Carson. Map. 22 pages. 25¢

No. 4—GRUMBLETHORPE *by* Edwin C. Jellet; POMONA GROVE *by* Mary W. Shoemaker; NOTES ON POMONA *by* Edwin C. Jellet. Three full-page illustrations. 38 pages. ..... 50¢

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No. 7—THE CRICKET GROUNDS OF GERMANTOWN *by* George M. Newhall. Map and 12 full-page illustrations, 24 pages. ..... 25¢

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No. II-7—THE GREAT ROAD THROUGH GERMANTOWN; CONRAD WEISER'S INDIAN FRIENDS AND THE COAL LANDS *by* George Wheeler; MILESTONES AND OTHER LANDMARKS *by* Anthony M. Hance. ..... 50¢

Post Cards

An assortment of twelve color post cards featuring views of historic buildings in Germantown is available for 50¢.

Orders for the above publications may be sent to:

JOHN MCA. HARRIS, JR.
5208 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

Checks should be made payable to the Germantown Historical Society. On orders for pamphlets, post cards, and individual copies of the CRIER, add 25¢ to cover postage and handling.

Germantown---*Lived in History*
Open House Tour

Sponsored by
THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Saturday, May 18, 1968
1 to 5 P.M.

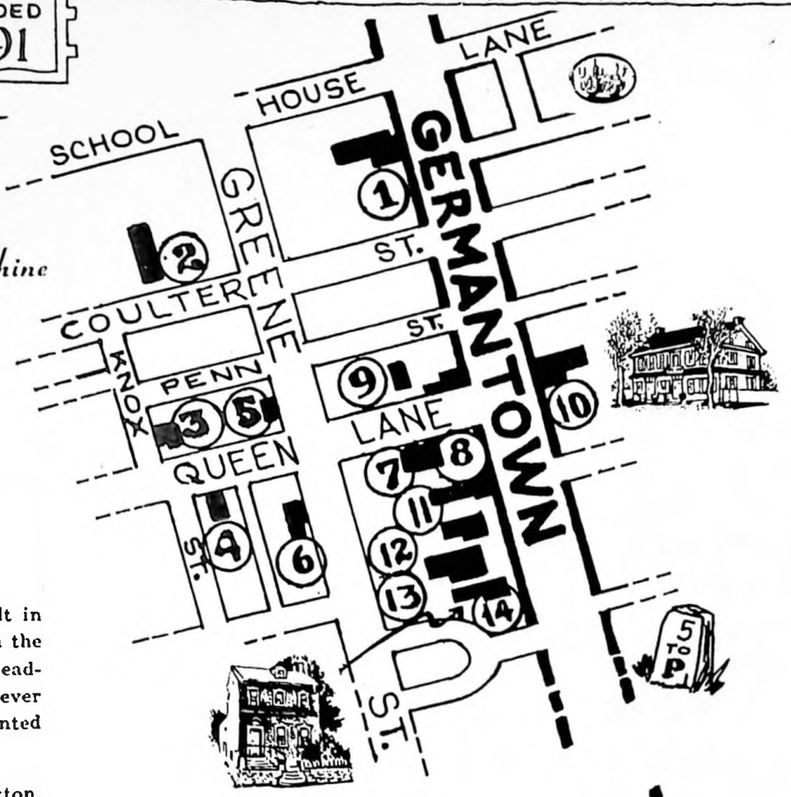
Admission to all houses $2.00
Tickets may be purchased
at each house
No single House Admissions

Advance Ticket Sales
16 Armat Street
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HISTORIC GERMANTOWN

FOUNDED 1691

Rain or Shine



1. MORRIS HOUSE, 5442 Germantown Avenue was built in 1772 by David Deshler. During the Battle of Germantown the British General Howe moved from Stenton and made his headquarters here. When in 1793 and 1794 a plague of yellow fever came to Philadelphia this beautiful country house was rented by President Washington.

2. 115 W. Coulter Street, home of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Dutton.

3. 5303 Knox Street, built during Revolutionary War, originally a very small Colonial House which faced Queen Lane. Owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Malvern Benjamin.

4. 128 W. Queen Lane, owned and occupied by Miss Margaret Howard.

5. 5306 Greene Street, the E-G Sausage Factory. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Githens.

6. 5220 Greene Street, originally a farm house, built in 1784; the farm extended from Queen Lane to Manheim Street to Wayne Avenue. Now owned and occupied by Mrs. Dorothy Parker.

7. 32 W. Queen Lane, house completed Spring of 1865 by Smith E. Hughes, a house carpenter. At present owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Knuppel.

8. 30 W. Queen Lane, a small Victorian home now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Simon Gribbon.

9. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH-CHRISTOPHER SAUR HOUSE, Germantown Avenue and Queen Lane. The first German Newspaper in America was printed here.

10. GRUMPLETHORPE, 5267 Germantown Avenue. Wister Homestead built by John Wister, 1744 as a summer home. The British General Agnew died here after the Battle of Germantown. House has been restored to original appearance.

11. COSTUME MUSEUM-THE BECHTEL HOUSE, 5226 Germantown Avenue. Built by John Bechtel in 1744. House has on exhibit 530 complete costumes earliest of which date back to 1810.

12. HOWELL HOUSE, 5218 Germantown Avenue. Built 1770 by William Forbes. Acquired by Historical Society in 1966 through generosity of Mr. Charles Woodward.

13. HACKER CONYINGHAM HOUSE, 5214 Germantown Avenue. Home of Germantown Historical Society Museum and Library of the Historical Society. Built 1772 by William Forbes. Museum exhibits relics of old Germantown from the founding of the town and later years.

14. LIBRARY, 5208 Germantown Avenue.

15. OTTINGER HOUSE, 4825 Germantown Avenue, was built in 1781 by Christopher Ottinger. The walls are two feet thick and of stone. Now owned by the Alteneder family.

16. MEHL HOUSE, 4817 Germantown Avenue, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lounsbery, was built in 1744 by the Mehl family. The house remained in the Mehl family until shortly before the Minehart family acquired it 55 years ago.

17. THE PLAYHOUSE, formerly the barn to the Mehl House. Presently the home of the Germantown Theatre Guild.

18. LOUDOUN, 4650 Germantown Avenue, standing on the top of Neglee's Hill was built in 1801 by Thomas Armat for his son Thomas Wright Armat. In the fall of 1966 Mrs. John W. Farr headed a committee to clean up Loudoun. The committee has completed their job and today Loudoun is alive and gleaming again. Refreshments will be served at Loudoun during tour!

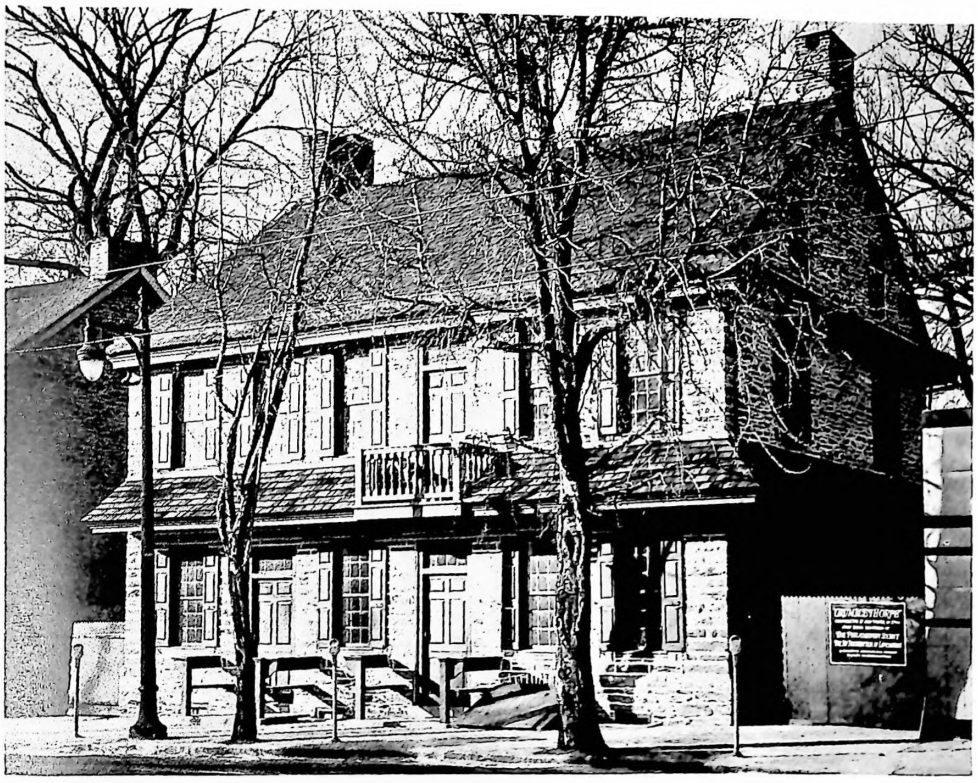
19. STENTON, 18th and Courtland Streets, erected in 1727-34 by James Logan. It is owned by the city and is in the custody of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Pa. Historically and architecturally one of Philadelphia's most famous houses.

Note: FLAT HEEL SHOES ARE REQUESTED TO ELIMINATE DAMAGE TO OLD FLOORS.

dick wainwright

TOUR COMMITTEE

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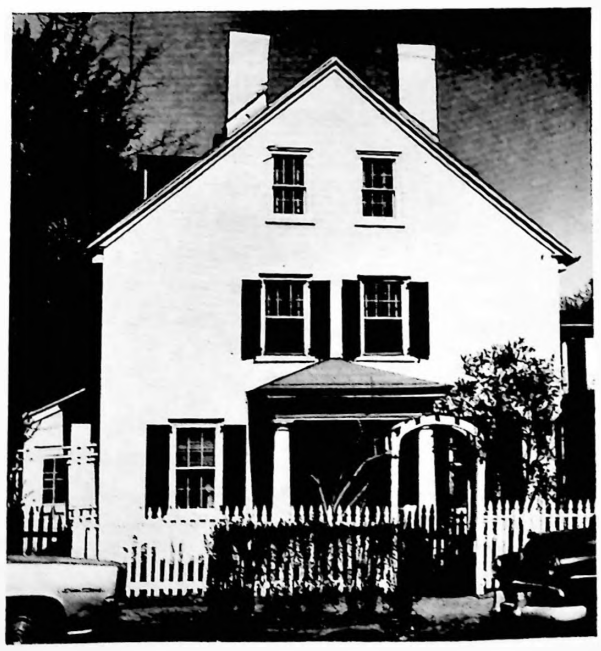
GRUMBLETHORPE
5267 GERMANTOWN AVE.

Annual Spring Tour

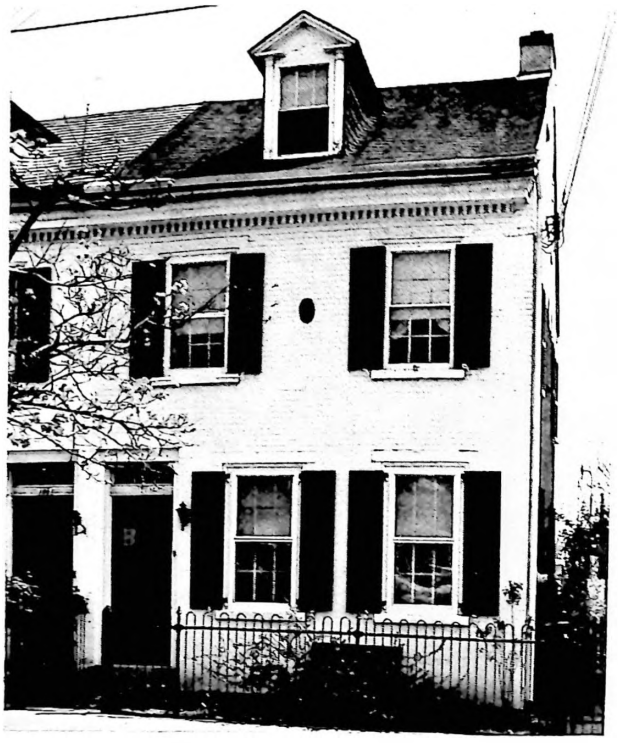
ON SATURDAY, May 18, 1968, The Germantown Historical Society will sponsor a Tour of Historic Germantown. Nineteen houses in the area between The Morris House and Stenton will be visited. All houses will be open from 1:00 PM. to 5:00 PM.

The following pages give a map of the tour, pictures of some of the houses, and related descriptive material.

1. The Morris House, 5442 Germantown Avenue, was built in 1772 by David Deshler. During the Battle of Germantown the British General Howe moved from Stenton and made his headquarters here. When, in 1793 and 1794, a plague of yellow fever came to Philadelphia this beautiful country house was rented by President Washington. The cabinet met in the room on the south side of the front hall and here made decisions leading to the establishment of West Point Military Academy and the settlement of the Whiskey Rebellion. The house, through inheritance has been held by the Perot and Morris families since 1894 until the owner and his sons presented it, in 1948, to the United States Government as a National Shrine.
2. Home of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Dutton, 115 W. Coulter Street.
3. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Malvern Benjamin, 5303 Knox Street. Built during the Revolutionary War, this was originally a very small colonial house which faced Queen Lane. An extension was added about 1863 and the house is now a twin facing Knox Street.



5303 KNOX STREET



128 WEST QUEEN LANE

4. Home of Miss Margaret Howard, 128 West Queen Lane.
5. The E. G. Sausage Co., 5306 Greene Street. This building is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Githens and is now occupied by Mr. Harry Higgins, III. A visit to the E. G. Sausage Co. could well be the highlight of the tour. That is, of course, if you have an extraneous interest in the early nineteenth century architecture finished off in late Ethiopian decor. We would like to say that, although George didn't sleep here, it's possible that he stopped in to buy a link or two. However, since this three story structure wasn't in existence before 1840, we may have difficulty making that story digestible.
6. Home of Mrs. Dorothy Parker, 5220 Greene Street. Originally a farm house. Built in 1784. The farm extended from Queen Lane to Manheim Street and from Germantown Ave. to Wayne Avenue.
7. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Knuppel 32 West Queen Lane. This house was built during the spring of 1865 by Smith E. Hughes, a house carpenter, on land purchased from Jabez Gates in 1863. The first owner of this small Victorian house was Mrs. Joseph W. Parks.
8. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Gribbon, 30 West Queen Lane. This house, also, was built by Smith E. Hughes in 1865 on land purchased from Jabez Gates in 1843. The first occupant was Miss Elenor Lee.
9. The Trinity Lutheran Church and The Christopher Saur House Germantown Avenue and Queen Lane. Here were printed the first German newspaper and the first Bible printed in America. The first type cast in America was prepared here in 1772-73. Saur refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States and his printing equipment was seized and sold. He died in poverty on August 26, 1784.
   A collection of Saur's work will be on view.

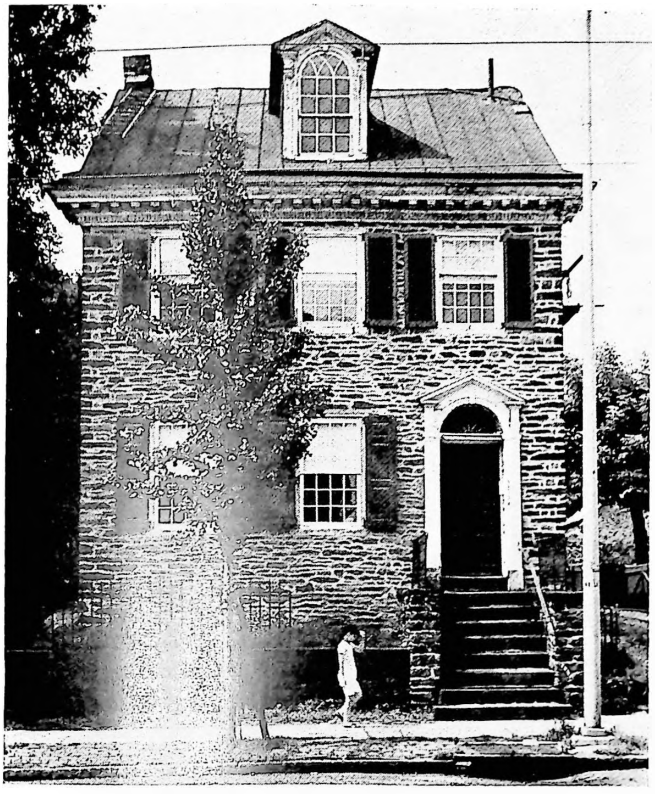


5220 GREENE STREET



30 AND 32 WEST QUEEN LANE

10. Grumblethorpe, 5267 Germantown Avenue. This was a homestead built by John Wister in 1744 as a summer home. The British General Agnew died here after the battle of Germantown. Sally Wister, author of *Sally Wister's Journal,* was born in this house. The house has been restored to its original appearance.
11. The Bechtel House - Costume Museum of the Germantown Historical Society, 5226 Germantown Avenue. This house was built by John Bechtel in 1744. It now contains an exhibit of 530 complete costumes dating from 1810 through the 19th century with a few from the early 20th century.



HOWELL HOUSE

12. Howell House, 4218 Germantown Avenue. Built by William Forbes in 1770. This house was acquired by the Germantown Historical Society in 1966 through the generosity of Mr. Charles Woodward. It is now the Society's newest museum and contains exhibits of toys and textiles.
13. Conyngham-Hacker House, 5214 Germantown Avenue. Built in 1772 by William Forbes, this house is now the home of The Germantown Historical Society and a museum of relics of old Germantown.
14. The Baynton House, 5208 Germantown Avenue. Built in the early nineteenth century, this building now contains the library of the Germantown Historical Society. There are more than 3,000 books, hundreds of pamphlets and photographs, as well as newspaper files and manuscripts.
15. Ottinger House, 4825 Germantown Avenue. Built by Christopher Ottinger in 1781. The stone walls are two feet thick Ottinger, as a young man was a Pennsylvania soldier. The Ottinger family continued to live here until shortly before it was purchased, 27 years ago, to save it from destruction. It is now owned by the Alteneder family.
16. Mehl House, 4817 Germantown Avenue. Built by the Mehl family in 1744. Some soldiers, killed during the Battle of Germantown (October 4, 1777), were buried on this property. The house remained in the Mehl family until shortly before the Minehart family acquired it 55 years ago. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lounsbery.



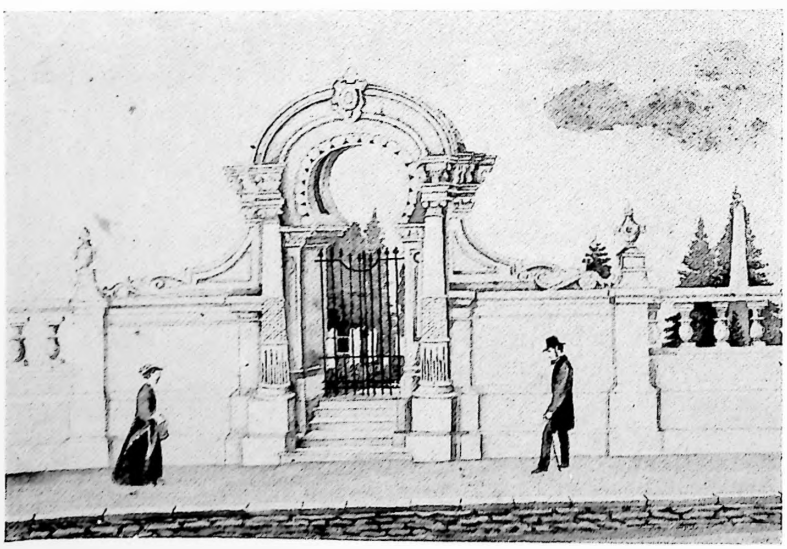
CONYNGHAM-HACKER HOUSE

17. The Playhouse, 4817 Germantown Avenue. Formerly the barn to the Mehl House, this building is now the home of The Germantown Theatre Guild.
18. Loudoun, 4650 Germantown Avenue at the top of Neglee's Hill This house was built in 1801 by Thomas Armat for his son Thomas Wright Armat. The name Loudoun was taken from Loudoun County, Virginia, where Thomas Armat had first settled. The property passed, through marriage, to the Logan family, descendents of James Logan, and remained in their hands until 1939 when Maria D. Logan died, leaving the house to the City of Philadelphia under the jurisdiction of the Fairmount Park Commission. She also willed $150,000 in trust to the City of Philadelphia the income of which is to be used to maintain Loudoun in the condition in which it was turned over to the city. For 27 years Loudoun was rarely open to the public but during the fall of 1966, Mrs. John W. Farr headed a committee and the work of cleaning up Loudoun was started. Now the job has been completed and Loudoun is alive and gleaming.

    Refreshments will be served at Loudoun during the tour.
19. Stenton, 18th and Courtland Streets. Historically and architecturally this is one of Philadelphia's most famous houses. It was built by James Logan in 1728 on a plantation of about 500 acres situated on the Germantown Road about fifteen miles from Philadelphia. James Logan came to Philadelphia in 1699 as William Penn's secretary. In 1701, when Penn returned to England, Logan was appointed attorney for the proprietors and continued in this office until his death in 1751. He held many public offices and became famous as a linguist and mathematician. He willed his library of more than two thousand volumes to the city of Philadelphia and these were the foundation of the famous Loganian Library. Stenton was occupied by the Logan family through six generations. In 1900 it became the property of the City of Philadelphia and in 1910 the mansion was put in the custody of the Pennsylvania Society, Colonial Dames of America—now known as the National Society of Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

CONYNGHAM-HACKER HOUSE

HOME OF THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LOWER BURIAL GROUND

Logan Street & Germantown Avenue

Presented to the Borough of Germantown
in 1693 by Jan Streepers

Tours of Germantown's Historic Houses

By MARY G. STODDART

THERE are in Germantown a number of historic houses operating under committee management. We have a Stenton Mansion Committee, a Morris House Committee, a Grumblethorpe Committee, The Johnson House under the management of the Women's Club of Germantown, and The Friends of Loudoun. Each of these has been acting independently, more or less as a small club.

Some time ago Mrs. Wilmot Jones, who wrote her master's thesis on Deborah Logan and who is now a guide at Winterthur, reminded a small group of the Stenton Committee that we had acres of diamonds under our very eyes. These "diamonds" were revealed to the proper eyes and the revelation produced results.

On December 6, 1967, the chairmen of most of Germantown's historic houses, and a few other interested persons, met at the home of Judge Harold D. Saylor to discuss ways and means of promoting tours of these houses in a more cooperative way than has been previously attempted. The representatives of historic houses who were present at the meeting were constituted a committee of which Mrs. John O. Stoddart was elected chairman.

A second meeting was held at Vernon on the morning of Wednesday, March 13, 1968. Dr. Margaret Tinkcom, historian with the Philadelphia Historic Commission, spoke on "Why Germantown Should be a Showcase." About fifty people attended. The importance of a good tour system during 1976, the year of the Bi-Centennial, was one of the topics of discussion.

The committee intends to model the Germantown historic house tours after the Park House Tours now operating under the aegis of the Museum of Art. Tentative plans include a series of four lectures.

1. General 18th Century . . . Museum Staff (Winston)
2. Architecture . . . . . Museum Staff (Naude)
3. Furniture . . . . . Museum Staff (Roberts, Joan)
4. Germantown . . . . . Dr. Margaret Tinkcom

The lectures could be from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 M. on Wednesday mornings; each lecture in a different historical house or, possibly, at The Germantown Theatre Guild. After the lecture, an informal period of sherry, biscuits, and conversation, to give the audience an opportunity to talk informally with the speaker, and get to know each other.

After the lecture series guides would be recruited and trained in depth for one or more houses on the tour. However, we will not forget our friends who will be invited from time to time to "happenings" in the houses. Also, to promote good will and cooperation, there will be field trips to, for example, the Park Houses, Trent House, etc.

The three major areas of concern are:

1. To train guides.
2. To promote good public relations.
3. To provide transportation.

THE GOAL: To make money for all the houses and educate the public to Germantown's unique contribution to history.

As we go to press (April 17) the committee has already received two requests. Mrs. Spector of the Division of School Extension has requested a guide for a group of twenty adults on May 2, 1968, and the "Bar Association Ladies" wish to visit Germantown in early August.

The committee hopes that many readers will be interested and will take part in this activity.

Please contact: MRS. JOHN O. STODDART
708 Germantown Avenue
Lafayette Hill, Penna. 19444.

ART-TIQUE 68

Since the Vernon Fair passed out of existence nearly ten years ago, Germantown, although richly endowed in cultural resources, has not presented an outdoor event of similar magnitude. With this in mind, the Maxwell Mansion Committee of The Germantown Historical Society will present ART-TIQUE 68, the first annual Germantown clothesline art exhibit, antique show, and fair, on June 22, 1968, from 10:00 AM. to 6:30 PM., in and on the grounds of the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, Greene and Tulpehocken Streets, Germantown.

The proceeds of ART-TIQUE 68 will go toward the restoration of the grand old mansion and its eventual use as a Victorian museum.

ART-TIQUE 68 will feature a clothesline art exhibit comprised of invited Germantown and area professional artists: an antique show and sale by Germantown and outside antique dealers and collectors; and a small high level fair with features of community interest and refreshments. Special features will include demonstrations presented by artists such as mobile making and sculpture, fabric printing, and various methods of print making. Another highlight will be an antique auction.

An admission donation of one dollar will be solicited. Tickets will be available six weeks in advance of the event. In event of rain, ART-TIQUE 68 will take place June 29. Community participation is invited.

For information, please call or write:

THOMAS G. ARMSTRONG
407 West Chelten Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144
VI 4-4068

A Quiz on Germantown

By GEORGE W. SOMMER

READERS of the *Crier* have had a feast of Germantown lore. Through the years we have been taken through vivid moments of its history, traversed its ancestral homesteads, become well acquainted with many of its personages and have been granted gratifying glimpses of the Wissahickon valley.

Now, with the first issue of 1968, it might be refreshing to test our knowledge of some Germantown affairs. On each of the following questions check the statement that seems valid, continuing through the twenty questions. Then turn to the end of the quiz for the correct answers and explanations. Finally rate yourself on your understanding of Germantown's historic background.

1. Which present day mansion was opportunely saved from burning by the British during the Revolution?
   a. Upsala
   b. Stenton
   c. The Laurens
2. A British General was quartered in a Germantown mansion before the Battle of Germantown, and here he returned to die. It was—
   a. Ashmead House
   b, Johnson House
   c. Wister House
3. Which street follows an Indian Trail to the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek?
   a. Rittenhouse
   b. School House Lane
   c. Walnut Lane
4. What was John Bardsley remembered for?
   a. Introduced English sparrows to Philadelphia
   b. Founded the Friends' Library
   c. Led Pennsylvania troops at the Battle of Germantown.
5. Which mansion has a statue of an owner standing before it?
   a. Carlton
   b. Chew House
   c. Vernon



6. Where did Gilbert Stuart live when he painted George Washington?
   a. At Belfield
   b. At "The Corvy"
   c. At The Morris House
7. Whom was Queen Lane named for?
   a. Queen Anne
   b. Queen Victoria
   c. An Indian Queen
8. Where is there a weathervane carrying a British crown?
   a. At Germantown Academy
   b. Town Hall
   c. Morris House



9. What venerable building can be seen in front of the Upper Burial Ground?
   a. The cemetery office
   b. The Concord Schoolhouse
   c. An early church.
10. Who said, " . . . in the language of Holy Writ, there is a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray, but those times have passed away. There is a time to fight, and that time is now."?
    a. Rev. Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg
    b. Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf
    c. Dirk Keyser
11. Where can one read Pastorius' appeal to posterity?
    a. On his tombstone
    b. On the monument in Vernon Park
    c. On the Market Square Church
12. Where was "Spook Hill' located?
    a. East of Germantown High School
    b. At Mount Pleasant
    c. On Negley's Hill
13. Which present building has holes from Revolutionary musket bullets through three doors?
    a. Johnson House
    b. Cliveden
    c. Upsala



14. Who first manufactured the "Germantown Wagon?"
    a. David Billmeyer
    b. John Bringhurst
    c. William Ashmead

15. Where is a known residence of the mysterious Dr. Witt?
    a. Shippen-Blair House
    b. Grumblethorpe
    c. Green Tree Inn

16. Who first demonstrated that the tomato was edible and that anthracite coal could be burned?
    a. Samuel Carpenter
    b. John Wister
    c. Samuel Johnson

17. Which Germantown house was the residence of the President of the United States?
    a. Wyck
    b. Morris House
    c. Loudoun

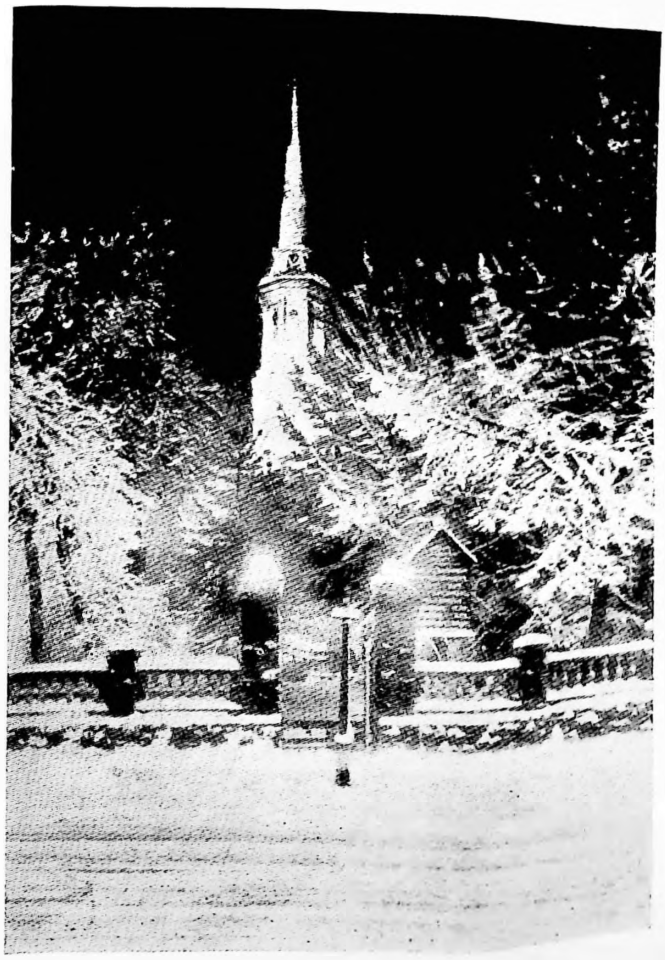


18. A white, three-arched building recedes behind others, across Germantown Avenue from Vernon Park, at Price Street. What was it built for?
    a. A railroad terminal
    b. Slave quarters
    c. Farmers' market.

19. The monument on Market Square is surrounded by a high fence. Of what is the fence formed?
    a. Cast iron bars
    b. Lattice work
    c. Bayonets

20. For what purpose did the "Paxtang Boys" march to Germantown?
    a. To attack the British
    b. To contest an election
    c. Looking for Indians

Answers on Following Page



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

TWO POEMS

by MARTHA D. TOURISON

MY OLD APPLE TREE

O, never in a spring before
Did you toss blossoms at my door,
Nor did you ever, ever dare
To drop pink petals in my hair.
So like an aging king of old
Who feels the spring and growing bold
All caution gone, he laughs at life
And makes me queen, a farmer's wife!

AN APRIL LYRIC

Though April's come with wak'ning song,
Her melodies will not last long.
The threat'ning clouds will shadow all
And let their silver raindrops fall.
From leafless limbs the blossoms burst.
Dried grasses spring to quench their thirst.
The brown trout swim where brooks run free
Beneath a gold-tipped willow tree.
Now April like a fickle girl
Will frown, then dance a sun-drenched whirl;
She blows earth's winter grief away
And ushers in a joyous May.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Stenton, the manor of James Logan. When the main British force under General Howe was posted in Germantown, Stenton was General Howe's headquarters. The homestead was doomed to be destroyed, as were many others, but the quick-witted, colored caretaker was able to turn over the arson squad to the British provost guard as deserters. Her grave is in the garden and there is a tablet in the park to her memory.

2. When John Wister (Wurster) built his "Big House" as a country seat in 1744, all its stone was quarried on the property and the wood came from trees felled in the nearby woods. Some called the house Grumblethorpe. His garden, hospitality, and help for those in need were famous. Sally Wister's journal gives many intimate details of this house during the war period. The British Brigadier General Agnew lived here for a week. He was riding bravely up Main Street, during the Battle of Germantown, when a sharpshooter picked him off. His orderly brought him back to Grumblethorpe where he died. His bloodstains may still be seen in the floor of the west parlor.

3. School House Lane, once Bensell's Lane, was one of the roads "towards the Schuylkill." As may be seen from the map on our cover, it ran, as today, on the high ground and then down to the Ridge Road near the Wissahickon. It was part of an Indian trail from the Wingohocking Creek to the Wissahickon Creek. This was the favorite connection for travellers to avoid the mires and quicksands of Three Mile Run. Rittenhouse Road ran to the Rittenhouse paper mill but did not continue down the Wissahickon valley until after 1826.

4. One hundred years ago the city was plagued by an eruption of caterpillars or measuring worms. It was remarked that in England these were kept in control by the sparrows. Accordingly, the City Council empowered John Bardsley to proceed to England for relief. He returned with enough of the birds to establish them in this city. They quickly became the top street birds and maintained their supremacy until starlings were introduced. The sparrows took care of the caterpillars. John Bardsley's, the Sparrow Jack House, is on Germantown Avenue above Upsal Street, a typical, early German farmhouse, with additions.

5. Vernon Mansion dates from 1803. It became the home of John Wister, a member of Congress. His picturesque statue stands beside the handsome doorway. Later it was renamed for Washington's home. In early days the property had a springhouse on the lawn, a sundial on a post, and a stream flowing through the lawn.

6. The building that was at 4140 Germantown Avenue housed Gilbert Stuart, one of Germantown's famous painters. He called it "The Corvy" (crow rookery) and used a kind of barn in the rear as a studio. Here he painted the faithful and best loved "Atheneum" portrait of Washington which hangs in the Boston Museum. The "Lansdowne" likeness was also designed here and is to be seen in the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. This house was also the home of Wisters, Shippens, and Bringhursts.

7. The Indian Queen Inn gave its name to Indian Queen Lane, now known as Queen Lane, which was laid out in 1724 and was the original "cross street to the Schuylkill. The tavern had a signboard depicting an Indian queen, in the point of view of those early travellers.

8. Germantown Academy was founded in 1760 to supplement individual tutoring. The royal insignia can still be seen on the original weathervane. As The Union School it was opened to English and German students. British dead are buried on the lawn. British officers played cricket here, the game which later captivated Germantown. During the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 the government was moved to Germantown and Washington sent his stepson to study at the academy. One of the school buildings was a government office for a short time.

9. A Revolutionary schoolhouse called The Concord School is here on Germantown Avenue above Washington Lane. It has a belfry, side porches, and benches for waiting scholars. This was a school for pupils who could not get through to the Union School (Germantown Academy). Union, Concord, and Harmony (farther north) were names chosen for the early seats of learning. Later, the Concord School became the town voting place and was the scene of bitter political contests and combats, as when the Democratic "Corduroy Boys" from Chestnut Hill appeared. The history of many societies is woven into this old school building.

10. The Reverend Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg arrived in Philadelphia in November of 1742. Sent from Germany to be the minister of the three Lutheran churches that formed a parish he remained devoted to his charges until his death in 1787. He fathered St. Michael's Lutheran Church which is still located at 6671 Germantown Ave. His eldest son, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was educated in Germany and then returned to America to study for the Lutheran ministry. When the war broke out he was made a colonel in Washington's army and proceeded to raise his own company at his church door. His farewell sermon ended in the quotation given.

11. Francis Daniel Pastorius is rightly called the father of Germantown. He journied to Pennsylvania, was cordially received by William Penn and founded a new settlement on 5700 acres of land north of Philadelphia. He wrote,

> Hail to posterity! Hail future men of Germanopolis! Think how your fathers left their native land, and where the wild beast roams, in patience planned new forest homes beyond the mighty sea; there undisturbed and free, to live as brothers of one family—remember, and wherein we have done well, follow our footsteps, men of coming years.

His entire appeal can be seen on the monument in Vernon Park to the memory of the early settlers.

12. Spook Hill was the area near St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal Church on High Street. A plaque by the corner stone shows that, when it was built, it incorporated the graveyard of the Hermits of the Wissahickon. This society of Rosicrucian mystics set up their tabernacle and worshipped in Hermits' Glen under the leadership of John Kelpius. Their activities were little understood by the townspeople who regarded their mysticism, astrology, and divination with awe and incredulity. Kelpius was buried here with cryptic rites by the surviving hermits in 1708.

13. The present Women's Club of Germantown was the ancestral home of the Johnson family. It stood in the thick of the Battle of Germantown whose tides flowed around it and the Chew and Billmeyer houses above. The bullet riddled fence can be seen in the museum of the Germantown Historical Society. General Sullivan forced the British to retreat down the Germantown Road but the Americans ran out of ammunition when they got to the Johnson house and had to withdraw from the battle.

14. William Ashmead first began to manufacture his Germantown Wagon, shortly after the Revolution, at 5430 Germantown Ave. Seeing the heavy, imported coaches, he bethought himself of a better, made one, and rented it out. Finally it was bought, and he began a carriage making business. Later, ironworker John Bringhurst, at 5219 Germantown Ave., also adopted their manufacture.

15. Dr. Christopher Witt, English physician, artist, musician, and herbalist, spent his last years at The Laurens, also known as the Shippen-Blair House. This was close to the burial ground of the Hermits of the Wissahickon, with whom he was closely connected. Dr. Witt painted the only known portrait of John Kelpius, their magister. He planted the first herb garden in America and was referred to as a magus, astrologer, and hexmeister (wizard).

16. Samuel Johnson was born just after the Battle of Germantown. He proved to be an individualist. The love apple, or tomato, was widely cultivated as a garden ornamental, but everyone then "knew" it to be poisonous. However, Samuel Johnson experimented and showed friends and acquaintances that it had no harmful qualities. Following this upset in public conviction, it became a principal staple in the kitchen.

Likewise, the "black stones" from upstate, unlike the bituminous type, were tried and found "unburnable." But, in 1835, Johnson again put them to the test, found a method of using them, and published his discovery. This coal was brought in barges to the Falls (of the Schulykill) in great chunks, and carted to Germantown. Boys were employed to break it up for use in the stoves of the period.

17. During the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, throngs of Philadelphians fled from the city to Germantown. During November, George Washington and his family took refuge in the Morris House which thus became a presidential mansion for one month. The following year the Washingtons again occupied the Morris House, from July 30th to September 20th. This, now, is the only presidential mansion occupied by Washington. The White House was built after his time. Here issued a proclamation on The Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania and here the decision was reached to put the United States Military Academy at West Point. Strangely enough, after the Battle of Germantown, the house was occupied by Sir William Howe. The perfect condition of the house, furnishings, and grounds is due to later owners, John Perot, merchant of Philadelphia, and the Samuel Morris family. It is now part of the National Park system and is maintained by a committee of ladies of the Germantown Historical Society.

18. This was once the gateway to the town, terminal of the railroad from Philadelphia. When subscriptions were opened for building the line, investors stormed the office with the expectation of developing a better approach to the city than the arduous Germantown Road. On June 6, 1832, a service of six cars a day was begun. Then "Old Ironsides" was built to serve this line, marking the origin of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Cars carrying twenty passengers inside and fifteen on the top, rattled down to 9th and Green Streets. Later, the line was pushed up the Wingohocking valley to Chestnut Hill, and the old depot became forgotten. It is believed to be the oldest railroad station building (still standing) in the United States.

19. In 1883, a monument to Germantown soldiers who served in the Civil War was erected in Market Square. It is of Gettysburg granite and bears bronze plaques giving Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Two bronze cannon, recaptured from the South, were added. It was enclosed in a fence constructed of 136 Civil War musket barrels and bayonets.

20. In 1762, the Pennsylvania frontier was suffering from murderous Indian attacks. The colonial government could do nothing to prevent them, so possees of citizens took the offensive. Settlers from the affected counties adopted a declaration of grievances to be presented to the government in Philadelphia by The Paxtang Rangers. But rumors spread that the frontier settlers were coming en masse to massacre all the Indians to be found here. Troops were organized to battle the supposed enemy. When "The Paxtang Boys" arrived they were escorted by militia and influential citizens to the governor and the serio-comic incident was closed.

Score Yourself

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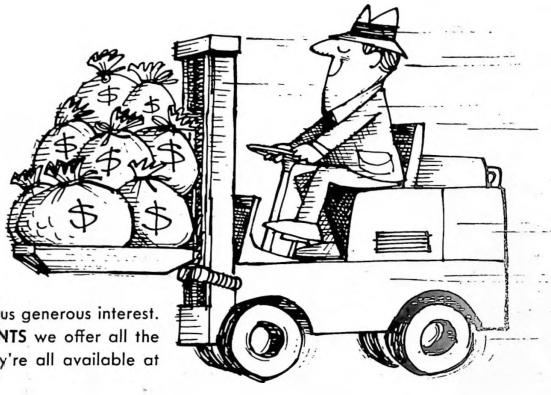
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