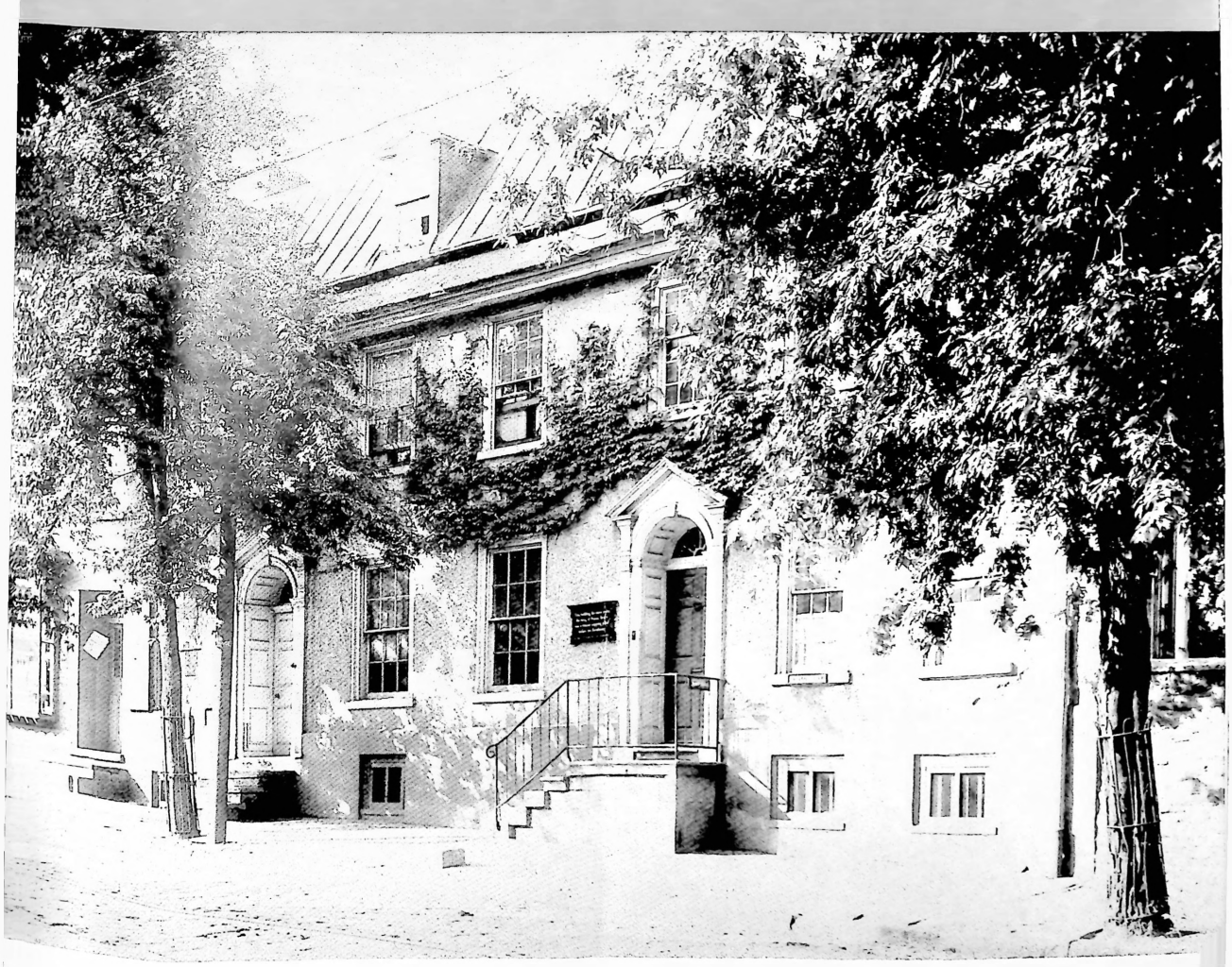
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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



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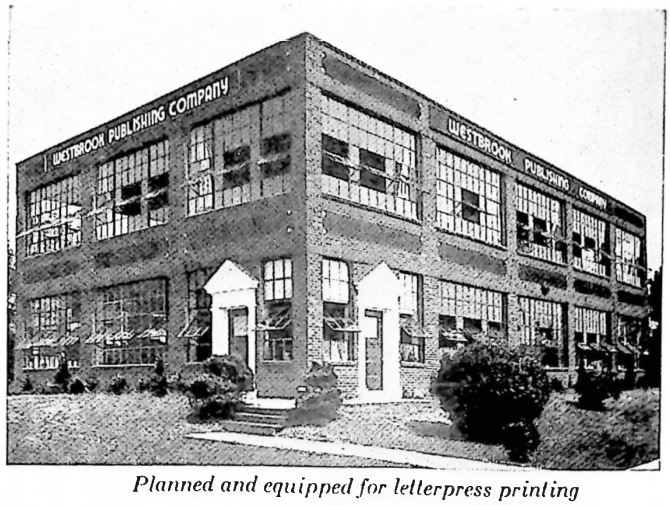
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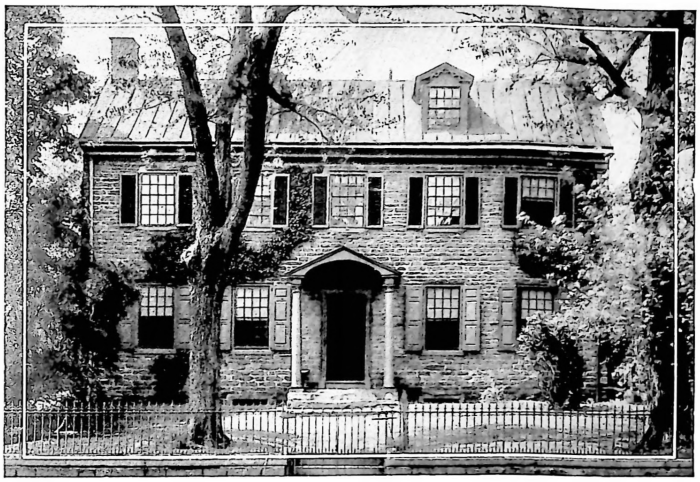
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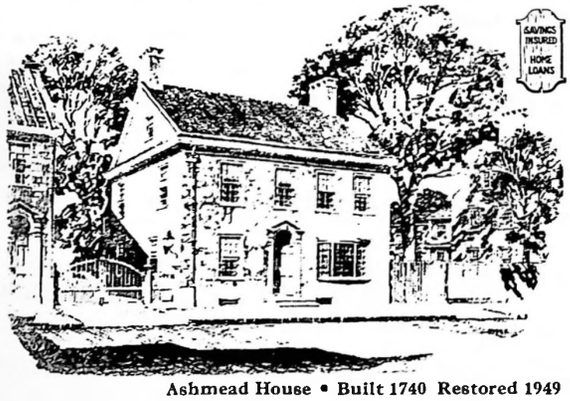
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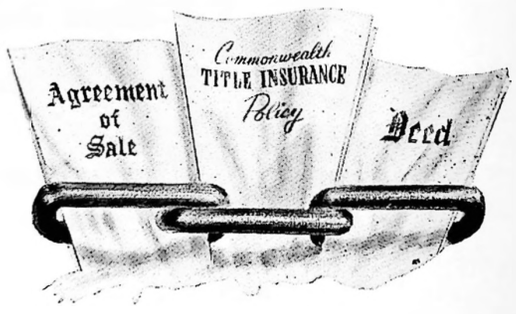
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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



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CONTENTS

PAGE

Museum Happenings 6

Old Inns and Taverns of the Great Road 7
By Ernest Howard Yardley

The Friends of the Wissahickon 11
By Anna Blakiston Day

Notes on the Flora of the Wissahickon Valley 13
By Edgar T. Wherry

Mills of the Wissahickon 14

The Continental Mills 14
By Colonel Millard Brown

The Mills at the Mouth of the Creek 15
By Douglas Macfarlan, M.D.

Rittenhouse Paper Mills (Part II) 16
By George Allen

Germantown Week 17

Stained Glass Windows 23
By Paula H. Balano

About Our Authors 30

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Museum Happenings

It is pleasant to be remembered, to have our name, through the years, associated with progress and improvement. When making your will a bequest, even a modest one, to a forward looking institution working for the future, like the Historical Society, means that you have always a part in the better things to be.

Through an unfortunate accident the address of Mr. Ed. Wheelock, whose delightful article on "Broad Street a Half Century Ago" appeared in the last issue of THE CRIER, has been lost. The editors very much desire to get in touch with Mr. Wheelock and wish to express their thanks and appreciation for his generous cooperation. Can anyone inform us as to his whereabouts?

To refresh our memory and answer an often-asked question: The Historical Society Museum is open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday afternoons from 1 to 5. The Library is open only on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 5 when Mr. Hocker may be reached. There are no Saturday hours during August.

It is interesting and satisfying to note the increasingly large place THE CRIER is building for itself. You will find it on sale in more places and its contents discussed and commented on in many more gatherings. Send a copy to a friend. You may receive a nice little note of thanks and we a subscriber.

With surprising frequency the request comes to the office for a Town Crier bell to be loaned for a pageant or historical play and we are forced to refuse because the only one in the Museum is too old and weak to be sent out. Has not some member a good old fashioned dinner bell, sturdy and interesting and not too precious to be loaned to a "property" man?

Spring is indeed a busy time, for birds and humans, and this particular Spring is no exception. So to avoid confusion mark now on your calendar three important dates, all having to do with Historical Society interests:

First—On May 22nd the annual card party for the benefit of the Upsala Restoration Fund.

Second—The famous Grumblethorpe supper in June. Enjoyable always in a number of ways aside from the excellent food. (Date to be announced.)

Third—Our own Historical Society Garden Party in June, a command performance, and the last pleasant social gathering before the summer scattering.

The Society has been saddened by the passing on March 18th of Elsa Koenig Nitzsche, a valued member of the Society and the wife of Dr. George Nitzsche, a member of the Board.

Mrs. Nitzsche was one of those rare spirits who made finer whatever she touched. To work with her was a privilege and an inspiration.

She was an artist of distinction and charm who had studied widely in Europe and whose pictures are in the better galleries; she wrote easily and delightfully.

Dr. and Mrs. Nitzsche were inveterate travelers and the results of their wanderings brought always rich pleasure to their friends in beautiful photographs and live and distinctive anecdotes.

So vital and glowing a personality makes the world a richer, better place.

The Library has recently come into possession of a new and interesting little book, *A Method of Prayer*, by Johannes Kelpius, published by Harper Bros. in association with Pendle Hill.

He is none other than Germantown's own pietist hermit whose book has been rediscovered and given to the modern world. A review says: "With the rediscovery of an early American saint comes the revelation of a real classic on prayer" and "Kelpius is a delightfully anomalous character to discover in the 20th century."



Morris House Garden as seen from Germantown Ave.

GERMANTOWNE CRIER

Volume 4 JUNE, 1952 Number 2

Old Inns and Taverns of the Great Road

By Ernest Howard Yardley

IT IS, primarily, the aim of this paper to enumerate, as far as limited research permits, the early hostelries along the German Towne Road, during the formative and development periods of a century or more; also, to give a suggestion of the civic attitude which was beginning to make itself apparent. However, in forming a mental picture of the early inns, taverns, and hotels, with their surroundings, we must direct our thinking to the primitive conditions then existing, and not to conditions of the present. Previous to the consolidation of the City, in 1854, the public houses particularly those which were the stopping places of the stage coaches, were the accepted sources for civic information and general neighborhood affairs. No doubt many of the traditions and legends which have come down to us, were circulated through these village centers. The old inns and their inn-keepers played a prominent part in the affairs of the early days, and in much of our history, reference is frequently found connecting a memorable incident to one of the early taverns.

Evidence of a growing civic mindedness became especially apparent in the first half of the 1800's, in the form of public meetings when the local affairs seemed to require concerted action in making for township betterment; or if an election was to be held, one of the local inns would provide a meeting place. The "big room" was generally available for social events, such as a coaching or sleighing party, coming from town. Stage stop inns catered more to the particular guests, and their registers have contained many signatures of interest.

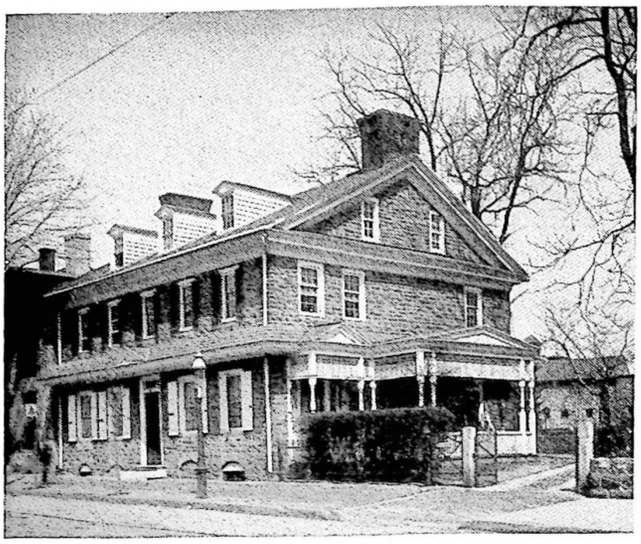
In an article describing the inns along the Lancaster Pike, there is a significant reference to the variety of hostelries: "These were sharply distinguished into classes, stage houses, waggon houses, and drover's houses. No stage driver would stop at a waggon stand, nor might a waggoner put up at a stage house, while drovers were excluded from both."

Truckers and teamsters were more attracted by inns having ample stabling facilities and wagon yards, which became market places on certain days of the week, where buyers and sellers "dickered and liquored." Frequently the vehicles would be in such numbers that they would overtax the tavern yard and form long lines along the sides of the roads. Likewise the sleeping accommodations were limited, and the trucker patrons would have with him a bag of hay as his bedding on the bar room floor.

The actual housekeeping was generally within the province of the landlord's wife, she saw that the larders were well stocked and the meals generous. In the more desirable houses cleanliness was apparent; in many of the rooms, and always in sleeping rooms, the floors were without coverings but immaculate by being frequently scrubbed with a strong solution of home-made soap, applied by the muscular arms of the "hired girls" brought in from the neighboring farms. The walls were given coat after coat of thick whitewash.

It has been said that the inns and taverns were of every variety, and so were the travelers; in a diary entry was found: "I also succeeded in procuring what was still rare, fresh sheets which had not already been used by some other traveler." When John Adams and the other delegates to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774, were in Philadelphia, Mr. Adams recorded in his diary that he "oated" at one inn, but dined at another, we may presume that it was only his horse that "oated."

Photographs and sketches show that some of the earlier hostelries were not as pleasing architecturally as, perhaps, the "King of Prussia" or the "Green Tree" inns; but the many examples of "Germantown Colonial" have aroused the admiration of architects practicing in distant fields. The late Charles Follen McKim, an American architect of international fame, has said that he learned more of the colonial style



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

from the old buildings of Germantown, than from any other source. Ralph Adams Cram, the dean of church architecture in this country, and so recognized abroad, volunteered the opinion that the esthetic value of many of our buildings was due, in a large measure, to the use of stone, described as "mixed with glimmer" taken from our once famous local quarries. Incidentally, much of this stone came from the quarry of Godfrid Lehman, located at what is now Main and Price Streets, where the old round house once stood.

An adjunct always considered as necessary standard equipment was a painted sign mounted on a sturdy pole erected in front of the inn. Signs would give the name of the establishment, and in many examples, it would also show some character or device, in an attempt to make the name more significant; or if a lettered sign, it might contain a jingle. The paintings may be executed by artists of acknowledged ability. Woodside was known to have painted several; Matthew Pratt, who later became a pupil of Benjamin West, in London, also left evidences of his art in this form.

The idea of elaborate signs seemed to originate in England, and here is the inscription found on an inn sign in Sevenoaks, Kent, England:

I, John Stubbs, liveth here,
Sells good brandy, gin and beer:
I made my borde a little whyder
To lette you know I sell good syder.

Watson, the annalist, mentions a sign of the character type: "The Quiet Woman" with her head cut off. This seemed to be in bad taste, but the annalist said: "I have found the origin of this sign, and it was no merry jest. The Quiet Woman was Marie Antoinette, after the guillotine had done its work.

Little seems to have been recorded as to the charges made by the inns and taverns, but it was found that a British guest objected to an account of ten dollars a week for a room and board. At an opposite extreme, it is noted, that the usual rate of exchange, around 1794, was "quarters for quarters." In 1756, Philadelphia had 112 taverns and inns, which included three in Germantown, operated individually by Sarah Pastorius, Margaret Whitman and Martin Grove.

The county tax for the required license was two pounds, six shillings for the places selling wine; and one pound, sixteen shillings for the wineless taverns.

Names of the various hostelries, or the number of landlords, is far greater than places in existence. The advent of a new landlord, frequently meant a new name for the establishment; some names were quaint, some fantastic, and some devoid of significance, as the fancy of the operator dictated.

Present-day efforts to locate old structures or their sites is impeded by the irregular relationship of the old system of house numbering, with the method adopted at the time of City consolidation. When the locating numbers were originally determined, there were but few intersecting roads (in 1704 there were but two), the numbers were continuous, presumably from the start of the road at Maiden Lane, now Front and Laurel Streets. As the cross streets came into being, it was necessary to advance each successive block "or square" by a hundred. The King of Prussia Tavern first numbered 4812–16 became 5516–5520. Still another factor added to the confusion, the first plotting of land between the Lower Burying Ground or Hood's Cemetery, and the Upper or Concord Burying Ground, established "farm lots" in widths of 231 feet, or half lots of 115½ feet in width; about equal to five or more lots in our now congested areas.

One of the first items of Philadelphia history refers to an inn; it recites that William Penn, after sailing up the Delaware in 1683, landed at the Blue Anchor Inn, on the west side of King (now Front) Street at Dock Creek. The City Tavern on Second Street above Pool (now Walnut) Street; also the Indian Queen, on the east side of Fourth Street above Chestnut (then Wynne) as well as the Francis Hotel nearby gave temporary abode to some of the early visitors who we now venerate.

It was in the riverfront area that there occurred the first action by Pastorius towards the founding of the German Towne, and by which the local scene is enhanced by the only historic inn structure, still remaining in substantially its original aspect. Although its function has been radically changed, we still can view the Green Tree Inn as an example of the typical architecture of that early period. Fortunately, the old structure has been carefully restored and is meticulously cared for by the present owner, The First Methodist Church, as their parish offices.

The first settlers in the German Towne were from Crefeld on the Rhine about fifteen miles east of the boundary line of Holland. They had purchased land in their new country through the efforts of the Frank-

fort Company in Germany, their agent being Francis Daniel Pastorius, who incidentally remained in that capacity in this country until 1700. Pastorius arrived in Philadelphia on August 6, 1683, preceding the other settlers by several months. Leaving their old homes in Germany on the 24th of July, 1683, thirteen families consisting of thirty-three persons headed for London, where James Claypoole, a Quaker merchant, had arranged passage for them to Pennsylvania, on the ship *Concord;* Claypoole also being one of the emigrants; Pastorius meeting them here on the sixth of October. Thomas Fairman, as the surveyor of the Province, laid out their plots and on the twenty-fifth day of the same month, the newcomers assembled in the "dug-out" of Pastorius, on the banks of the Delaware, at approximately the line of Pine Street, to select by lot, the land on which they were to settle.

Research reveals that Pastorius first built a small house in Philadelphia, but later came to Germantown and settled along the Great Road, above Poor House Lane, now Rittenhouse Street, on land which became the site of our heirloom. He married Anna Klosterman in 1688, and they became the parents of a son in 1690 and a second son in 1692. It was one of these sons who finally became the father of Daniel Pastorius, thereby we have a definite beginning for the story of the Green Tree Inn.

Very meager records appear to be available as to many of the inns and taverns named, and with some, the historical facts are as extinct as the structures. However, some interesting facts are before us, and we may begin our four-mile journey up the German Towne Road from shortly above Wayne Junction, through Germantown and Mt. Airy, to the "Dust Pan" at Chestnut Hill. As we pass the almost forgotten landmarks, we may visualize the scenes of the earlier days, and how the growing civic intent progressed in contributing so much to the history of our country.

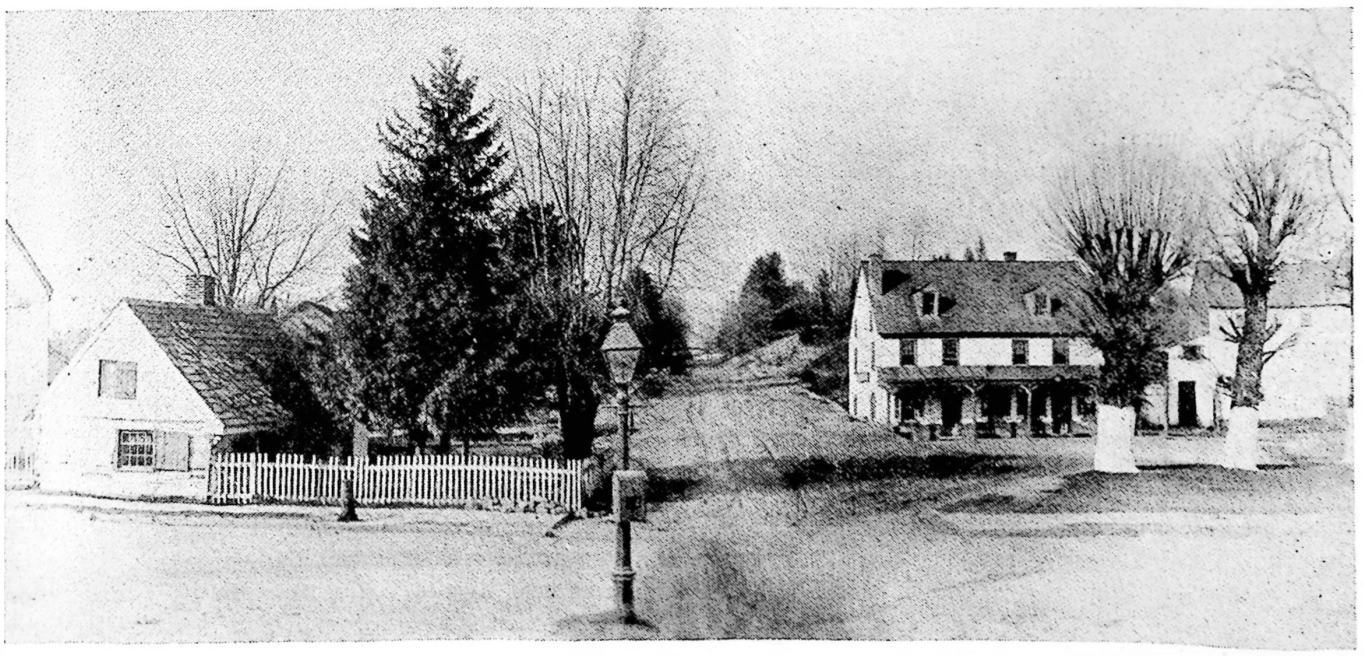
In Sower's newspaper, issued sometime in the 1750's, it is noted that the WHITE HORSE TAVERN; and the RED OX INN, with Peter Werle as landlord, existed in lower Germantown; unfortunately, no further record of these two resorts could be found.

The FARMER'S AND MECHANIC'S HOTEL at the southeast corner of Wister Street, Duy's Lane as it was anciently known, was built by Jacob Duy in 1809. The existing structure at this location, while unquestionably of great age, has been so altered by subsequent changes that colonial characteristics do not appear, and we cannot claim this as the original building. Various proprietors of the hotel included William Stallman, Hamilton Boyer, and Baltzer Naphley.

Approximately opposite at numbers 5048 to 46, stood the STAR HOTEL, erected in 1820. It was the headquarters for the early cricketer's Star Club, as the place was kept by an ardent devotee to the game. William Jarvis was the proprietor in 1840.

At the lower side of Manheim Street, the GENERAL WAYNE has had a record for unbroken succession of yearly licenses. It was erected in 1803 by Jan Streeper; originally a two story building, a third floor was added in 1866, and still later, various changes have destroyed its ancient appearance. The inn held the distinction of being headquarters for the enlistment of volunteers for our fighting forces. It was known in its early days as COX'S TAVERN, who was succeeded by Samuel Butcher as landlord and still later by John M. Bockius.

Returning to the east side of the road WIDOW LESHER'S TAVERN was at 5109, on the site of Tones Kunder's house, the north wall of which was



The Mermaid Inn (right), Germantown Avenue and Mermaid Lane



Roebuck Inn, Ashmead Place and Germantown Avenue. Original house erected 1709 by Joseph Shippen, also known as Buttonwood Tavern

supposed to be still standing until 1888 when an entirely new building was erected. At the rear of the tavern was a separate building of two stories, in which the first protest against slavery was drafted by four early German settlers. Friend's meeting was held here at various times, and it was also the occasional meeting place of the Hiram Masonic lodge. At one period when the fraternity was not in public esteem, attempts were made to disrupt the meetings on the second floor, where an exterior door served as the entrance from a ladder, which the tyler would pull up into the lodge room after the members had assembled.

Where Ashmead Place extends westward from the Main Street, there originally stood a large house erected, in 1709, by Joseph Shippen, son of Edward Shippen, first mayor of Philadelphia. In 1740, Joseph deeded this property to his three sons, the deed naming the place the ROEBUCK; supposedly taken from the name of an English Man-of-war. The property was purchased in 1819 by George Heft, who changed the name to the BUTTONWOOD, apparently influenced by two seven-foot-diameter buttonwood trees that stood in front of the inn. When it first served as an inn is a mystery.

In June 1840, Fanny Elssler, a famous dancer, drove from Philadelphia in a "coach and four," and with her suite stayed at the Buttonwood. During George Heft's management he provided an attraction described as "A new and splendid menagerie of birds, beasts and reptiles." The property finally reverted to Casper Heft, who established one of the notable gardens. The stockholders of the new railroad company held their first meeting here on May 3, 1831. The building was removed in 1854.

At Bowman's Lane the INDIAN QUEEN TAVERN was built about 1750, and was probably the incentive in changing the street name to Queen Lane. Michael Riter was the operator in 1809, later Joseph King appears as the proprietor, as he discontinued the sale of liquor in 1838, making it the first temperance hotel in Germantown. An application to the Legislature for a bank in Germantown was presented, as the result of a public meeting on January 2, 1814, Michael Riter providing the meeting place at the Indian Queen. Apparently the ownership must have remained in the Riter family, or, perhaps, the property reverted to them, for in 1864 it was sold to Naaman Keyser, for other commercial purposes.

On the northwest corner of Coulter Street, now occupied by the inn of that name stood the LINDEN. Unfortunately the date of the old structure cannot be determined, but its site was the farmstead of Christopher Bockius, and the building was the typical two and one-half story Germantown type. A feature of the vocation of Farmer Bockius was to chase the school boys, when crossing his land on their way to the Academy.

Watson, the annalist, is authority for the statement that "General Washington, Knox and Green slept in 5504, which was next to the corner (of Schoolhouse Lane)." This building was occupied by the Bank of the United States during a portion of 1798. Elizabeth Drinker records, "September 25th, Ye United States Bank removed ye contents thereof from Philada, ye 22nd inst. to Germantown—to a house lately occupied by ROCHARDET as a COFFEEHOUSE or TAVERN."

Some of the early inns and taverns were less prominent in community matters, but their antiquity may be of considerable help to complete a picture of old scenes. Research tells us that John Stuckert was a storekeeper at 5431–5433, in 1809; in 1840, this is given as the residence of Charles Ralph; at one time it was used by the Y.M.C.A., and afterwards altered into a tavern by Ambrose Reiber. At 5501, a hotel was established in 1829, by landlord Wade. (It is a

(Please turn to page 24)

The Friends of the Wissahickon

By Anna Blakiston Day

SOME YEARS ago, a group of people whose properties lay along the Eastern slope of the Wissahickon Valley were called together to consider its present condition. The Park land, when purchased about the end of the Civil War, was intended finally to extend from the top of the slope on one side of the Valley to that on the other side. The Fairmount Park Commission, appointed by the Board of Judges to manage it, gradually added to its acreage until now by purchase or gift there are between eleven and twelve hundred acres—almost all in forest and rocky land, extending from Northwestern Avenue to the Schuylkill River.

With appropriations from city funds, the Commission kept the roadway in good order for driving or walking, but the paths were few and poor, and the forest itself was quite neglected.

Many of the great hemlocks, the prevailing trees in the Forest, were fallen and decayed—many were about to fall and were very dangerous to pedestrians; the small trees were covered with honeysuckle gradually killing them. It appeared as if the citizens, the real owners of the Park, were careless of their valuable and unusual possession, which a well-known geologist has told us is not equalled in our country.

Evidently, something must be done to restore its beauty while keeping its wilderness. Public interest should first be aroused and the people who met that night in 1925 set about doing it.

Many men and women in Germantown, and Chestnut Hill were asked to join in the effort, giving in large and small amounts as annual membership dues to the new organization, calling it "The Friends of the Wissahickon." They thought of other Friends of the past—the Indians who made many of the paths, padding over them with their moccasined feet to Council Rock. There the statue of Tedyuscung now stands shading his eye to look over to the far distant Wyoming Valley whence his tribe, the Lenni Lenapi, had fled from the white man's inroad.

The next Friends were the mill-owners who, though they brought modern machinery to the Valley, made the roads over which we now drive or walk from the hills. These roads recall the early settlers, Kitchen's Lane, Livezey's Lane, Allen and Carpenter's Lanes. They probably laid out the turnpike leading from one mill to another. But it was long before the tremendous rocks at the entrance of the Valley near the present crossing of the Reading Railroad were blasted away to connect the turnpike with the road along the river at the Robeson Mill. During the Battle of Germantown in the Revolution, a skirmish was fought here and the place referred to by the British Officer in Charge as the "horrendous rocks" of the Wissahickon.

The old monks who had their homes, some on the Roxborough side of the creek, loved the Valley also. The Dunkards, the Rosicrucians, the Pietists and other sects—lived in caves of the rocks or in tiny houses like the one still shown at the Monastery, or the kitchen at the Livezey House.

When the Fairmount Park took over the Drive, the Mills were removed, only a few of the dams remaining as a memory. But I have told more of the Valley's history than what the Friends have accomplished.

They started in to clean up the Forest in a small way, but soon the depression came along when the Mills closed in Roxborough and Germantown and many men were out of work. That gave a great incentive to the Friends. A gift of $5,000 from one generous Friend started the real work. Soon other



Sketch by Richard Bishop of Thomas Mill Covered Bridge

generous givers brought the sum up to $30,000 and gangs of men were engaged under the direction of competent foremen and the Forest began to show great improvement. New paths and trails were laid out, young trees were planted, honeysuckle was cleaned out, the great dead trees were removed, and cut into firewood.

The Park Commission already had nurseries at Shawmont and Greenlands—badly in need of pruning and cultivation. That occupied many men and hundreds of young trees, mostly hemlocks, were put in the unused land.

When Henry Avenue was laid out, the line went through a fine stand of young evergreens, some six feet tall in one nursery. Through the funds provided by the Friends, 9,000 of these were moved to new positions in the Park, many around the beautiful old houses.

Each year since then, the Friends have had rows of young trees planted in the nurseries for future use. Many have been put in throughout the forest.

A number of years ago, the Meadow at the Northwestern end of the Drive was planned, and planted by the Friends with the help of the Legislature and named Harper's Meadow in recognition of the great services to the Park of a former member of our Board, William Warner Harper, whose home was nearby. The shelter was built and a tablet placed on it in his honor. The new recreation ground at Rex Avenue and the Drive was designed by one of our Board members. Both these grounds have fire-places and tables so picnics can be comfortably held, wood being provided by the Park to prevent destruction of trees.

Bridges are as necessary and almost as permanent an improvement as trees, so the Friends turned their attention to them, and $3,000 of their funds were given for the rebuilding of the Covered Bridge at Thomas Mill Road. That had long been too dangerous for use. So, after careful measurements, it was rebuilt on the same lines as before, but with steel reinforcements. Thus was restored the only one still remaining of the six covered bridges formerly along the Wissahickon.

Valley Green Inn on the Drive at Springfield Avenue has been for 100 years one of the centres of hospitality and good eating along the Drive. The Friends have taken over its management—have their yearly dinner there and urge others to follow their example. It is open every day but Monday. Tea and soft drinks can always be obtained, though dinners should be ordered ahead.

A map of the Valley showing all the roads and paths with side notes on the flora, fauna and geology can be obtained for 30 cents from the Secretary or at Valley Green. Three thousand of these have been sold in the last few years.

For several years, the first Sunday in May has been observed as Wissahickon Day when all those people who still have horses and carriages form a procession along the Drive, and are reviewed at Valley Green. Generally, four-horse coaches join in the line and hundreds of people come as spectators. It should be remarked here that one of the main objects of the Friends of the Wissahickon is to prevent automobiles from ever coming on the Drive.

As a memorial to Samuel Newbold Baxter, long the arboriculturist of Fairmount Park, the entrance at Cresheim Drive and Germantown Avenue was dedicated by our organization. It was planted with 10 ft. hemlocks and dogwoods from the Nurseries at Shawmont, and is a great addition to the neighborhood.

During the last year, 200 deciduous native trees, elm, ash, red and sugar maple and oak have been put in on the border of the forest and 50 trees offered to the Board of Education to plant in sunny school yards. Some of our large trees have gone towards the replanting of Vernon Park in memory of the soldiers of World War II.

It must be remembered that all this work is done under the direction and with the co-operation of the Fairmount Park Commission, two of the members of the Commission being on the Board of Governors of the Friends.

Each year the organization has one or more open meetings with speakers of note giving lectures with pictures on subjects allied with our work. Auditoriums in the neighborhood are kindly given for our use. Thus the purpose of the Friends is broadened and many new members obtained.

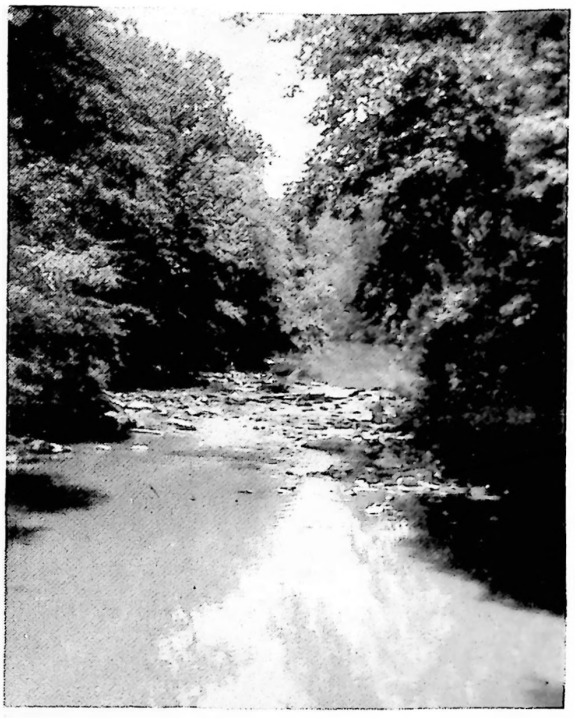
The orginal 50 members have increased to 880 now on our list. We have had much publicity from the newspapers of the neighborhood—*The Germantown Courier*, the *Herald*, the *Suburban Press* of Roxborough. So it is hoped to get more members to increase our annual income. "More members—More trees" is our motto, and 1,000 members our ambition.



The overhanging tree opposite Lincoln and Wissahickon Drive

Notes on the Flora of the Wissahickon Valley

EDGAR T. WHERRY
Professor of Botany, University of Pennsylvania



Typical scene of Wissahickon Creek looking upstream from Paper Mill Road

WITHIN the limits of Philadelphia County, from Chestnut Hill to Falls of Schuylkill, the Wissahickon Creek has cut a gorge through a series of hard, crystalline rocks of ancient geological age, termed the Wissahickon gneisses. Prominent minerals in these rocks are quartz, hornblende, and mica, which both on fresh rock surfaces and in the loamy soils derived by weathering, glisten in the sunlight. These soils are for the most part moderately acid in reaction, and so support vegetation made up of plant species which either prefer or tolerate acidic conditions.

The climate of Philadelphia being of the type favoring the development of forests, and the creek gorge having been but little disturbed by man, the profusion of trees on valley slope and ravine floor alike is a striking feature here. Conspicuous, especially in winter, is the one needle-leaf evergreen native to the area, Eastern Hemlock, Pennsylvania's state tree. This thrives best on the north-facing or otherwise sheltered slopes, and reproduces freely, so that whenever a mature tree dies there is pretty sure to be a young one nearby to reoccupy the vacant space. Mingled with the Hemlock are such trees as American Beech, Black Birch, and Chestnut Oak, which favor similar habitats.

On slopes not suited to Hemlock there is developed a mixed forest of Ash, Hickory, Tuliptree, with dominant Black, Red, and White Oak. In former years the famous American Chestnut was abundant in these forest communities, but blight has completely wiped it out during the past half century. An understory in this forest is formed by the Flowering-dogwood, which makes a gay display on the slopes in May. In alluvial situations along the creek there are occasional colonies of such riverside trees as Red Birch and Ash-leaved Maple, also known as Box-elder. Woody species which have been found growing naturally in Philadelphia County only along the Wissahickon include Umbrella Dogwood, Hop-hornbeam, American Linden (Basswood), Mountain Maple, and both Smooth and Hairy Shadblow.

On the forest floor, wherever the competition of the trees for light and moisture is not too severe, there grow many lesser shrubs and herbaceous plants, including a number of favorite wild flowers. In April and May appear multitudes of such sorts as Bloodroot, Hepatica, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Saxifrage, Spring-beauty, Toothwort, Wild Geranium, etc. Scattered shrubs of the Honeysuckle-Azalea produce their pink blossoms early in May, followed by the whiter Mountain-laurel, the State Flower of Pennsylvania, later in the month.

Rare or notable species known in the county chiefly along the Wissahickon include Hairy Solomonseal (*Polygonatum pubescens*), Moccasin Orchid (*Cypripedium acaule*), Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), Miterwort (*Mitella diphylla*), Pale Jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*), Early Yellow Violet (*Viola rotundifolia*), and Northern Sunrose (*Helianthemum canadense*).

The Wissahickon Valley is also a mecca for fern enthusiasts, for a rather large number of species thrive there. In drier situations the delicately cut Hayscented Fern (*Dennstaedtia*) is especially common, while the wooded slopes support several species of Woodferns (*Dryopteris*), Ladyferns (*Athyrium*) and Northern Maidenhair (*Adiantum*). Two ferns far beyond their usual range are the Northern Beechfern (*Phegopteris connectilis*), found some years ago but now alas exterminated by honeysuckle; and Narrow Chainfern (*Lorinseria areolata*) a southern species which ekes out a precarious existence in a ditch along a little-used side road. The botanist interested in mosses and lichens also finds much of interest there, and his search may be rewarded by finding such a novelty as the "Bug-on-a-stick" Moss (*Buxbaumia aphylla*), which appears in spring in the acid humus of the woodland floor.

MILLS OF THE WISSAHICKON

The Continental Mills

By Colonel Milliard Brown

WHEN CLEANING OUT a closet in our factory several years ago, I found a roll of what seemed like a piece of parchment. On taking it to the light and shaking the dust and dirt from it I saw that it was a painting of the "Leicester Mills," Charles Spencer, proprietor. An artist friend of mine agreed to clean it up, restore and frame it for me. It hangs in my office and could not be bought for any price.

This picture shows three buildings, which are still in use, and also a part of the Roberts coal yard just as it looks today. There is, however, a small stream running across the street along side of the oldest building and through the coal yard, which no doubt emptied into the Wingohocking Creek. This creek is now a large sewer under Belfield Avenue.

From the style of the clothing shown in this painting I believe it was produced about the time of the Civil War.

The Dutch who settled in Germantown were a very frugal people. They had brought with them some sheep. After shearing they made yarn on their old spinning wheels and knitted it into stockings, mittens and mufflers. When Philadelphia was founded, they could be seen riding in the wagon with their families, proceeding down the old Indian Trail (now Germantown Avenue) to the City to sell their products to its inhabitants.

History of the settlement of Germantown shows that the first factory industries established were knitting and weaving.

The only reference I can find of Charles Spencer is a mention of his attendance at a meeting of the members of the Methodist Church in 1856. It is my belief that the firm was liquidated shortly after the panic of 1893.

The present Continental Mills is the outgrowth of the business career of my father, Wilson H. Brown. His first job was with William Dalton, a manufacturer of woolen yarn. When Dalton failed, father rented a mill on Armat Street (now a parking lot for our employees). As a youngster about eight years old I used to go there and play around the office. When the Spencers failed father formed the Leicester and Continental Mills, Inc.

Father had been a creditor of both the Leicester Mills and the Continental Mills. Thomas Little was the owner of the Continental Mills. I began my work in this Company in 1899 after graduation from the Northeast Manual Training School.

Because of the machinations of some financial interests, due to the political reform fight of 1905, the new firm was forced out of business in the panic of 1907. Eventually father was able to repurchase the mill property. The corporation is now known as the Continental Mills, Inc.

Its product is woolen cloths, both woven and knitted, and employs about four hundred people. It is an integrated plant. We buy the raw wool, spin yarn, knit, weave and finish our own product. We dye raw wool and finished cloth. Our product is sold only to manufacturers of clothing for men, women and children and the United States Government.

The Continental Mills, Inc. is an open shop. In profitable years our profits are shared with our employees. The majority of our capital is owned by employees and their families.

Our principal bank is the historic National Bank of Germantown.



Roberts Mill, Church Lane and Wingohocking Street

The Mills at the Mouth of the Creek

(Part One)

DOUGLAS MACFARLAN, M.D.

HOW MUCH IS there to be said about the Wissahickon! One could write on its scenery, its birds, its flowers and even its fish. There is, too, the fascinating story of Kelpius, the hermit; of the Pietists and their monastery; and of the attack of the Pennsylvania Militia against the Hessian line along School House Lane at the Battle of Germantown. But this story deals with something entirely different—the mills along the creek. In it we hope to find a continuity with the past and get an idea of what a really thriving industrial place the creek was in times gone by.

The character of this section of the country must have been decidedly different in the early days, for there were woods a-plenty then, to hold all the rainfall which ultimately swelled the stream to a full flow that turned the mill wheels. It is surprising to know that there were over fifty mills on the creek from mouth to source, at sometime or other.

And why are all the mills gone now? There are a number of reasons. The woods were cut down to supply the winter fuel for the city, and to clear the farm land. So the stream shrank in volume. Then came the more dependable steam power, and the consolidation of many small plants into large and more efficient mills.

Beginning at the mouth of the creek, we learn that Penn granted in 1683, to five different owners, tracts which stretched from the river to the present Wissahickon Avenue, then known as "The Germantown Line." Each of these tracts included a part of the creek*. The lowest strip of land was granted to Robert Turner of Cambridge, England, and comprised 500 acres which he named Sumac Park. No mills were mentioned in the first record, but in 1686 Turner leased the land for 101 years to Joshua Tittery, a broad glass maker from Newcastle-on-Tyne and to Richard Townsend, Millwright. They agreed to erect mills and improve the land. Townsend had arrived on the *Welcome* and had brought material and millstones with him, yet there is good reason to believe that he built a mill on Chester Creek, and then probably the so-called Roberts-Lukens Mill in Germantown. However this may be, a grist mill and saw mill was built at the mouth of the creek before 1689. At this time a third interest was sold to John Tysack, another broad glass maker of London.

One of these mills still stands at the very mouth of the stream and has had a continuous history of occupancy for one purpose or another since that date; we number it mill no. 1.

* See map on page 29.

In 1691 the three owners sold the two mills to Andrew Robeson, Sr. of West Jersey and to Charles Saunders. This was the beginning of the ownership of the mills for over 150 years by the Robeson family. Andrew, Sr. with his wife Elizabeth and nephew Andrew 2nd had arrived in West Jersey in 1676, and in this same year Penn conveyed to him one-third share of all the Proprietary Rights in West Jersey. This was an enormous but undeveloped tract. In 1676, Andrew, Sr. was the Surveyor General of West Jersey and laid out the line dividing it from East Jersey. But he preferred the land on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware and made large purchases there—removing to Philadelphia in 1690, having built his mansion house on the Wissahickon in 1689. It still stands, a famous landmark, degraded unfortunately to the level of soft drink and "snack" bar. "How fast does fleeting time bedim the glories of the past."



Livezey Mills on the Wissahickon

In 1694, Andrew Robeson, Sr. died and his nephew Andrew, 2nd. (see footnote) purchased his half interest in the mills, then known as the "Wissahickon Mills." How and when the Saunders interest dropped out has not been determined, but Andrew, 2nd. willed the mills to Andrew 3rd. who carried them until 1752 when he sold to Henry Shellenberg. In 1775 John Vanderen bought them and owned them during the Revolution. By this time there were three mills at the mouth of the creek, a saw mill, grist mill and woolen mill.

On June 16th, 1789 the mills came back to the Robeson family, being purchased by Peter and Jonathan Robeson, great grandsons of Andrew 2nd. Peter bought out his brother's interest on Jonathan's death. Peter first married Martha Livezey, daughter of

(Continued on page 29)



Rittenhouse Homestead on Paper Mill Run erected 1707 (Monoshone Creek)

Rittenhouse Paper Mills

(Part Two)

By George Allen

Gabriel Thomas, who lived in Pennsylvania for some time, write *An Historical and Geographical Account of the Province and Country of Pennsylvania; and of West-New-Jersey in America.* (London, 1698.) In this tract he says, "All sorts of very good *Paper* are made in the *German-town;* as also very fine *German Linen*, such as no Person of Quality need be asham'd to wear. . . . " Here the word "Germantown" undoubtedly signifies Roxborough, in which the mill actually was built, as well as Germantown proper, since Roxborough as yet had no definite name, and the mill was only a short distance from the Germantown line. It is interesting to note in passing, that while a number of English writers mention the new mill, a translation of this book by Thomas into German contains the only reference to its existence in that tongue, which was also the native language of the founder.

Although their names were not mentioned at all, it is evident that the paper mill established by the Rittenhouses is referred to in all these extracts. But the first actual mention of the Rittenhouses in Philadelphia, besides the marriage entry of Nicholas and a statement that they owned several lots in Germantown in 1689, is found among the names of the so-called "sixty-four of the first Germantown Inhabitants," who were naturalized by Thomas Lloyd, Deputy Governor of Pennsylvania, on May 7, 1691.

It would seem that William Rittenhouse, and his son Nicholas, almost immediately after they arrived, set about to find persons who would help finance a paper mill. The beginning of the actual erection of the mill took place about the month of September, 1690, although the title to the land on which the mill was built bears the date of "the Ninth day of the twelfth month called February, in the fourth year of the reign of Queen Anne over England, etc., Anno Domini 1705–6." The grantor is Samuel Carpenter, of Philadelphia, and the grantee is William Rittenhouse, who by that time was sole owner of the mill. The lease was to extend for a period of nine hundred and seventy-five years from September 29, 1705, for fifteen years had already elapsed from the original figure of nine hundred and ninety years, which term had apparently been set only by a verbal agreement between Rittenhouse and Carpenter, and was finally made into a written contract at this late date.

The land had originally belonged to William Harwood, being part of a much larger tract. He leased one hundred acres, of which this plot, mainly of meadow-land and extending from the township line to the Wissahickon Creek, was twenty, to Carpenter. At that time it was the custom to rent land for a fixed amount, with a stipulation that the leaseholder might buy it after a certain number of years. Before the land was actually bought from Harwood, on September 29, 1690, Carpenter arranged verbally to rent a portion of it to Rittenhouse, and company. But the actual document, showing the terms of the transaction, was not drawn up until fifteen years later, when the original partnership had been dissolved and William Rittenhouse owned all the shares of stock.

The partners of the Rittenhouses in this venture were very important men of their day. Samuel Carpenter and Robert Turner were extensive land owners, as well as friends and advisers of William Penn; Thomas Tresse was a rich ironmonger; and William Bradford was the first printer to print in the Middle Colonies. But, however important these men were to the order of things, it is obvious that the most important member of the concern was William Rittenhouse. with his son Nicholas.

From the very beginning the mill was run by a partnership. A fair amount of money was necessary for such a venture, for acquiring land, wood, and tools (which probably had to be imported, unless the Rittenhouses brought theirs with them), and there were many advantages in having a group of men as investors, at least until the mill was firmly established. It is not known precisely why the partnership was dissolved, but, some time before 1705, William Rittenhouse managed to purchase the shares in the hands of the other men and become sole owner. Since he was a practical man, and capable of making his mill run profitably, it was only logical for him to try to purchase the shares of the others as soon as possible. Presumably the mill was under the management of William Rittenhouse and his son, Nicholas, who later became a partner with his father, and, upon his father's death, gained sole ownership of the mill. The Rittenhouses suceeded in buying Turner's

(Continued on page 18)

GERMANTOWN WEEK

MAY 10 TO 18, 1952

SPONSORED BY GERMANTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Program

SATURDAY, MAY 10th

6 P.M.—Parade and program in Vernon Park

SUNDAY, MAY 11th

Church Day

4 P.M.—"Fellowship Through Music," Concert by Combined Church Choirs, at Second Baptist Church, Upsal Street and Germantown Avenue

ALL DAY—Wissahickon Valley Horse Show—Mt. Airy Avenue west of Wissahickon Avenue

MONDAY, MAY 12th

9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.—Schools Student Tour of Historic Houses

11 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Art Exhibit in Vernon, Vernon Park

12:15 P.M.—Community Luncheon of Germantown Business Men's Association at Delmar-Morris Dining Room

1:45 P.M.—Official opening of Headquarters, North-Northwest Philadelphia Branch, American Red Cross, 5536 Wayne Avenue

8 P.M.—Schools Music Festival—10 Schools participating—at Germantown High School Auditorium

TUESDAY, MAY 13th

9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.—Schools Student Tour of Historic Houses

11 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Art Exhibit in Vernon, Vernon Park

6:30 P.M.—Girls Soft Ball Game, YWCA vs. Waterview Recreation Center Teams, at Otto Mallery Playground, Morton & Johnson Streets

8 P.M.—Indian Lore Program at Germantown Boys Club, 25 W. Penn Street

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14th

11 A.M. to 8 P.M.—Vernon Fair, Clothesline Art Exhibit and Automobile Show in Vernon Park

11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.—Luncheon in Vernon, 85c. Served by Church Women's group

2:30 P.M.—Drill by Fairmount Park Mounted Guards in Vernon Park

5 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.—Supper served at the Fair by the Neighbors of Germantown Settlement—$1.00

THURSDAY, MAY 15th

Rain Date for Fair

Sales Day in Stores

10 A.M. to 8 P.M.—Clothesline Art Exhibit in Vernon Park

11 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Art Exhibit in Vernon, Vernon Park

3:15 P.M.—Baseball Game—Germantown High School vs. Northeast High School, at High School Athletic Field, 1200 E. Sedgwick Street

FRIDAY, MAY 16th

Sales Day in Stores

10 A.M. to 8 P.M.—Clothesline Art Exhibit in Vernon Park

11 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Art Exhibit in Vernon, Vernon Park

3:30 P.M.—Baseball Game—Germantown Friends School vs. Moorestown Friends School—at Boys Field, Midvale and Wissahickon Avenues

6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.—Sports Carnival at Waterview Recreation Center, Haines and McMahon Streets

8 P.M.—Concert by Germantown YMCA Orchestra, including specialty numbers and chorus, in Auditorium of Free Library, Vernon Park

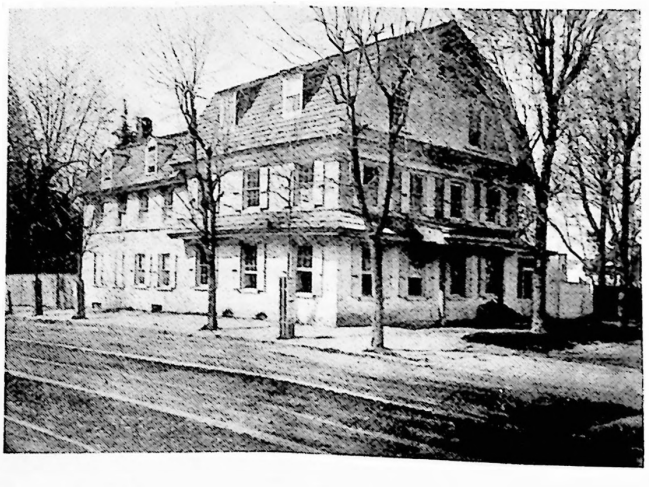
SATURDAY, MAY 17th

Sales Day in Stores

SUNDAY, MAY 18th

2 P.M. to 6 P.M.—Tour of Houses and Gardens—Tickets $1.50

Tickets may be secured at Vernon, Vernon Park—GE 8-9044.



De La Plaine House on Market Square

RITTENHOUSE PAPER MILL

(*Continued from page 16*)

share about 1697, Tresse's about 1701, shortly after the destruction of the mill by a freshet, and Bradford's in 1704.

Shortly after the erection of the mill Bradford managed to offend the Quaker authorities, always a simple task, first, because he printed a charter for which, they said, he had no permission, and then, by printing a pamphlet written by George Keith, a seceding Scotch Quaker and, according to contemporary Quaker notions, one of the foremost local emissaries of the Devil. In 1693 Bradford left Philadelphia for the more salubrious regions of New York City where in May or June, 1693, he established the first printing press in that colony. He still kept his interest in the paper mill, however, and depended on it for much of his paper supply. Unfortunately, because he was so remote from the mill, he was forced, in 1697, to rent his share to the Rittenhouses, father and son. The original lease, with the water-mark WR, the initials of the maker's name, is still preserved. From this it can be seen that Bradford was to have, for his share of the mill, "ye full quantity of Seven Ream of printing paper, Two Ream of good writing paper, and two Ream of blue paper," totaling six pounds, two shillings in value, per annum, and a monopoly of all the printing paper produced at the mill from September 1, 1697 to September 1, 1707. For their share the Rittenhouses promised to keep the mill in good repair at their own expense.

The quantity of paper made at the mill is not stated, but it is possible to guess approximately what the capacity of the mill was. Horatio Gates Jones, who first studied the subject, conjectured that from twelve to fifteen hundred reams of paper of all kinds were made there in the course of a year, and this is probably fairly near the correct amount.

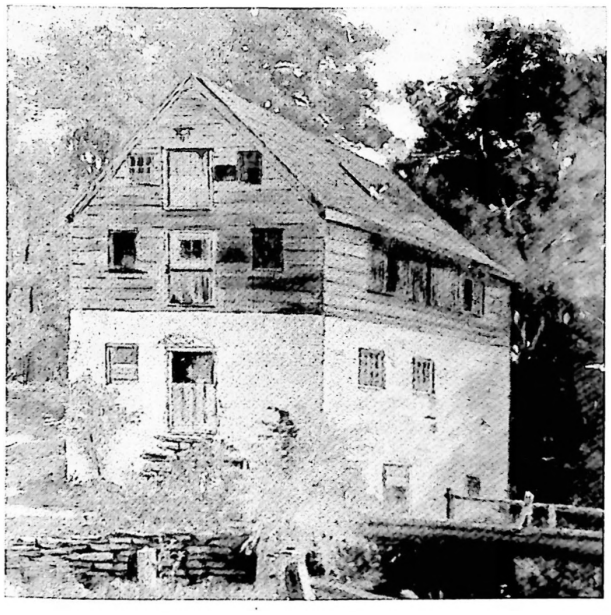
Until a short time ago it had not been determined definitely where, on the original tract of twenty acres, the mill was first located. A good many years ago a writer in the *Sunday Dispatch* of Philadelphia said that a descendant of Rittenhouse told him that the first mill was built on Crab Creek, later called Tulpehocken Creek, one quarter of a mile northeast of the Wissahickon Creek. While it is true that Paper Mill Run (formerly Monoshone Creek) is more of a "creek" than a "run," and Crab Creek is only a "run," nevertheless the original lease would seem to settle the matter. But as no sign of the original building or even of the second structure could be seen, the exact location was for years a matter of conjecture. In 1933, however, Mr. James F. Magee, Jr., of Philadelphia, a specialist on early American watermarks, made a most interesting discovery. About three hundred and thirty feet up-stream, and on the other side of the river from the house, still standing, built by the Rittenhouses in 1707, he found a small rock, the top of which had been bored at two places, making holes of about three inches depth. Since he found the rock at a point not too far below the confluence of two smaller streams, where a good deal more water flows than further up-stream, Mr. Magee came to the conclusion that this was the site of the first, as well as the second, mill, the second having been built on or very near the site of the first. The stone probably served to hold firm a post, and keep it from sinking.

The stone building which is still standing near the site of the old mill in Fairmount Park is commonly called the Rittenhouse mill. It was erected in 1707 by the father, William, and the son, Nicholas (i. e., W
Claus), as is evident from the inscription C R on the
1707
one side of the house. This quaint structure, however, was always used as a residence and never for any other purpose. It is perhaps better known as the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, astronomer, than the home of the country's earliest paper-makers.

There is no pictire or description of the earliest mills extant, and it is not known exactly how they looked. According to William McCulloch, in a letter to Isaiah Thomas, an early writer on the history of printing, the original mill was built of logs, and the building extended over an undershot water-wheel, as there was no dam or race. From a statement made by Nicholas Rittenhouse to William Bradford, after a freshet had washed away the mill, it can be seen that much "scantling" and board, presumably clapboard, was saved from the wreckage. Because of this evidence many persons are apt, against their better judgment, to agree with the none too trustworthy McCulloch that the mill was made of logs, and covered with clapboard, and probably extended directly over the stream, in this way being more likely to be swept away by a freshet than if it were on the shore entirely, and had a small run to supply the water for the wheel. The structure itself was also, no doubt, quite small, and probably with a loft in it in which to dry the finished paper.

We do not know exactly how the Rittenhouses made the paper in their mill. However, since they learned their trade in Germany or Holland, it is obvious that the methods used in their mill would be as near to those of the men in these countries as their material and knowledge would permit. The mill was, as we have seen, apparently built of logs, near or directly over Paper Mill Run, both in order to have water to operate the trip hammer used for pounding the pulp, and in order to dampen the mass of rags for decomposition. The mill was either set part on the bank and part hanging out a small distance over the surface of the water, or the entire structure was built on the bank except the water-wheel, which naturally reached out a short distance into the stream or run. The essentials for the finer paper were clean, white linen rags, and an abundance of

clear, flowing water, free from too much mineral matter. At this period the rags were thrown into a water-filled trough, and pounded by a stamping machine run by a trip hammer, being slowly beaten until they became a thin, fibrous pulp. They had previously been placed in a vat, in order to ferment and disintegrate, so that the trituration might make the mass more fluid. When the mass had been pounded to a proper consistency, it was taken to a large vat, where the "vatman" stood with his mould, merely a rectangular frame with a bottom of fine wires, closely set, running the length of the frame, and crossed by coarser wires, widely set, running its width. The skill of the paper-maker made up for the extremely primitive tools which he used. For he had to take up the proper amount of pulp into the mould, give it a peculiar twist to the right and left, in order to have the pulp spread evenly and drain properly, and remove the frame from the mould; then he gave the mould to a second man, called a "coucher," who drained more of the water from the paper and then, with a deft movement, flipped the thin, saturated



Rittenhouse Paper Mill on Monoshone Creek

layer of pulp on a felt pad slightly larger than the sheet of paper it held. Another worker took each sheet and sandwiched it between two felt pads, until he had one hundred and forty-four sheets, or a "quire" of paper. When he had six quires, or a "post," he placed them under a screw press, something like a cider mill, in order to squeeze out the excess water. Then all the workers were summoned to help turn the press, by means of a long lever, on which they all tugged. Next the papers were taken out of the felt pads and pressed all on one pile, in order to squeeze out the water that remained. After this the "layman" took four or five pieces of still moist paper together and placed them upon a length of hair rope, coated with beeswax, in a loft or some other place where the air was pure and free from dust. Here the paper remained until it was sufficiently dried, at which time it was dipped into a sizing, to make it impervious to ink. Several days were necessary to produce a specimen of dry, finished paper. If three men worked for the usual long hours, they might be able to make a maximum of about twenty posts, or approximately five-and-a-half reams of paper in a day. This process of making paper was in main most likely that in use at the Rittenhouse paper mill.

We know exactly what the price of paper then was, for in the contract between William Bradford and William Rittenhouse, the price, as of 1697, was "y^{e} writing paper to be at 20^{s} [per ream] and y^{e} brown paper at 6^{s} pr. Ream."

Before the introduction of machinery, from four-and-a-half to five-and-a-half reams of paper of the size of twenty by thirty inches was a day's work for three men working together. But while the yearly output of this one mill was hardly more than fifteen hundred reams, and quite possibly less, the importance of such an amount on the colonial market was enormous. Formerly, Bradford was compelled to import his entire supply from abroad, especially from England and the Low Lands, but now he could depend upon the larger part of the production of the new mill for his own use, while some of the paper would be retailed in Philadelphia for use as letters, account books, and for other miscellaneous purposes.

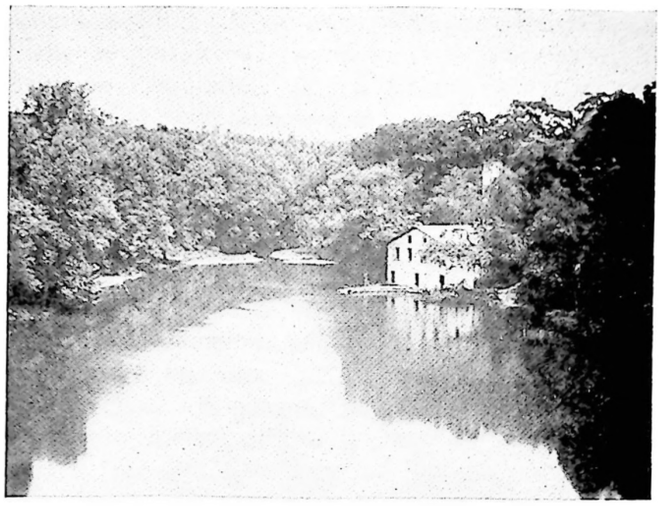
Several kinds of paper were made at the mill, including writing, printing, brown, and blue paper, as well as pasteboard. The product of the Rittenhouse mill at this time was excellent, not being discolored or brittle. Many of the books and almanacs which Bradford printed are made from it, as well as many early Philadelphia documents.

The subject of the water-marks in use at the mill in its first years is a separate study in itself. Probably the original paper-making moulds in use at the mill were brought over from Holland, or secured from there after the Rittenhouses arrived here. They were doubtless plain moulds, with no netting for water-marks. A skilled man, however, could easily have filled in the desired design. A water-mark is produced by wires bent to the shape or design required, and sewed to the surface of the mould, so as to make the paper thinner in the place touched by the mould. The paper, upon being held up to the light, then gives much the effect of a silhouette.

We cannot determine with absolute accuracy which water-marks were first used at the Rittenhouse mill. The best we can do is to find pieces of water-marked paper which were used as documents, letters, or in books, and then determine which are found on the earliest dated paper. After a careful study of the subject, Mr. Magee has found that the first water-mark in use was a fool's head over a figure 4, which is in turn placed over three balls, placed much in the same position as the well-known pawnbroker's

symbol, and having the letters NR, for Nicholas Rittenhouse, on the other side of the paper. This is found on paper of the foolscap size, the water-mark having given the name to the size. Mr. Magee has seen this design on paper dated as early as 1692. The second symbol was one with the word COMPANY, surrounded by a rectangular frame, and referring to the original partnership. The effect is none too professional looking, and the form may have been made by one of the workmen who was not, we may be sure, too skilled at making patterns on wire. This design is seen on paper from 1696 until about 1704, when Bradford, the last shareholder outside of the family, sold his interest in the mill, at which time we may suppose the design was discontinued. Also dating from the year 1696 is a water-mark with the ligatured monogram WR, the initials of the founder on one half of the sheet, while on the other half is the clover-leaf, trefoil, or *klee-blatt*, inside a shield, and surmounted by a kind of crown. Beneath the shield, in outline letters, is the word "Pensilvania." According to Mr. Dard Hunter, an authority on paper-making, this symbol shows the Dutch and French influence, for this design dates from about 1460, first appearing on French-made paper, and later on paper made in the Low Countries. By a series of metamorphoses it changed from a bull's head water-mark. The crown-and-shield with the fleur-de-lis represented the arms of France, and this design was often used by other paper-makers, presumably in reference to the direct descent of the House of Burgundy from the kings of France. Interestingly enough, William Caxton, the first English printer, used paper imported from the Low Lands with this same emblem. The clover leaf, which had been used by paper-makers throughout Europe for centuries, first appearing in Italy, was substituted by Rittenhouse for the fleur-de-lis from the town seal of Germantown. Shortly before this, in 1686, Francis Daniel Pastorius had contrived this seal for the town, on the border of which the mill lay. Besides these symbols there were, at this time, two other water-marks in use. The one had the fleur-de-lis inside of a shield and surmounted by a crown, as in the "Pensilvania" mark, but having the letters NR on the other half of the paper. This design is found as early as 1696. The other is the sign of the post horn, found for the first time about 1698–1700. Many of these water-marks were used for quite a number of years, though the form changed somewhat through usage.

Some time after the establishment of the mill, in 1700 or 1701, the small stream which supplied the water power for the plant furnished a major tragedy. A freshet, or spring flood, swept away the entire mill and most of its implements. The only description of the fatality is contained in William Barton's *Memoirs of the Life of David Rittenhouse* (Philadelphia, 1813), in a letter written by William Penn which has since been lost. Barton points out, however, that the freshet occurred some time during Penn's second visit to the province, which took place in 1699, and probably towards the end of the visit, in 1701.



Old Germantown Water Works as Seen from Old Walnut Lane Bridge

Photograph taken in 1883 by J. Mitchell Elloit

> There is now before the writer of these memoirs a paper in the handwriting of the celebrated William Penn, and subscribed with his name, certifying that "William Rittinghousen and Claus" [Nicholas] "his son," then "part owners of the paper-mill near Germantown," had recently sustained a very great loss by a violent and sudden flood, which carried away the said mill, with a considerable quantity of paper, materials and tools, with other things therein, whereby they were reduced to great distress; and, therefore, recommending to such persons as should be disposed to lend them aid, to give the sufferers "relief and encouragement, in their needful and commendable employment," as they were "desirous to set up the paper-mill again." . . . In Mr. Penn's certificate he [William Rittenhouse] is called an old man, and is stated to have then been "decrepid."

Of the contents of the mill, some fifteen pounds, two shillings, and fourpence worth of wood and parts of the mill were saved, according to the bill of account given by the Rittenhouses to William Bradford.

As Penn was genuinely interested in the progress of his colony, he was of course eager to see this important venture re-established, and managed to find like-minded friends who subscribed a sufficient amount of money for the re-erection of the mill, while he himself gave twenty five pounds towards the fund. The Rittenhouses then selected another site a short distance from the original mill, if, indeed, they did not build on the very same spot, and proceeded to erect another structure which was somewhat larger, probably in the early part of 1702.

From a letter which is still extant, it seems that Bradford did not help to any great extent towards the rebuilding of the mill, though he still kept his portion of the stock. But the Rittenhouses were continually trying to get control of all the shares. Having, by this time, bought out Tresse and Turner, they made overtures to Bradford, to see if they might buy his shares too. Bradford was at first willing to

do as Tresse in the settlement of his claim against the mill, and on these conditions the Rittenhouses agreed to rebuild; but some time later he seems to have made a different offer. Horatio Gates Jones suggested that it provided for a renewal of Bradford's paper monopoly. Whether or not it was this we do not know, but we do know that Rittenhouse refused it. From a letter, written by Nicholas Rittenhouse to William Bradford, dated May 12, 1703, we learn the conditions for the rebuilding of the mill. Bradford agreed to take his share of the materials saved, and the arrears of rent due, as Tresse, the third partner, had done, the sum of money being paid for with its equivalent in paper. The Rittenhouses did not undertake to renew Bradford's monopoly, as they preferred to give the men who helped re-erect the mill the first opportunity to purchase its products.

It was not until June 30, 1704, however, that Bradford consented to sell his interest in the mill. Two years later William Rittenhouse bought the land on which the mill was located for the rather generous period of nine hundred and seventy four years. In February 12, 1705–6 he ceded to Nicholas, his elder son, a three-quarter interest in the mill, and, when he died intestate in 1708, the remaining share passed to Nicholas. The mill, after being renewed several times, remained in the possession of the family until it was torn down in 1891, having also, in its checkered career, served as a cotton factory.

While we have followed the elder Rittenhouse in this extremely important venture, it is interesting to note that he was also a pious churchman. Though he may have been born a member of the German Reformed Church, as we have seen, William Rittenhouse, at the time of his arrival in Pennsylvania, was a member of the Mennonite Church.

It is probable that in his later years he devoted more of his time to affairs of the church, and less to the paper mill. Certainly his connection with things ecclesiastical became closer towards the end of his life.

Almost as soon as he arrived in Germantown, he began to organize a congregation in the village among the families of Mennonite persuasion, then numbering about ten families, and about twenty members, and in 1690 he himself was elected their minister As all members were Dutch-speaking it is most probable that services were held in that language, in the homes of the various members of the congregation.

Some time after 1700 a letter was written to the mother church at Hamburg, Altona, Germany, requesting that a bishop be sent over, in order to ordain a bishop for the American church. As no one in Germany seemed particularly anxious to make the trip, the home church decided that someone in America might perform the functions of a bishop without actual ordination, and quoted scriptural precedents for this action. Rittenhouse, as minister, was the natural person to undertake this duty, but at first he hesitated. After some more correspondence between the two groups he was persuaded to follow their advice, but died before he actually took over the office. From a letter in the Mennonite Archives in Amsterdam we learn that one of his acts, as minister, was to try to have the Mennonite *Confession of Faith* translated into English and printed by William Bradford. The latter, however, asked a price which was far beyond the means of the church. This little volume was first printed in English in Amsterdam in 1712, shortly after Rittenhouse's death. It was later reprinted, with an appendix, by Andrew Bradford, the son of William, in Philadelphia in 1727, having the honor of being the first book to be printed in the New World for the Pennsylvania Dutch. Moreover, the name of "Claes [i. e. Claus] Rittinghausen" appears among the names of the men who authorized the printing.

As a minister, Rittenhouse no doubt had part of his time occupied with officiating at weddings and funerals, and seeing that the members of his church took care of their own poor and needy, the latter being a function which the ministers of this group must perform. He also had to write sermons, or select and read them from books, and to conduct the services of his church.

In 1694 Jan Doeden and William Rittenhouse were appointed to take up a free will offering, in order to raise enough money to build a small house for a blind, old man and his wife, who came to Germantown in miserable plight, after wandering about in the wilds of Pennsylvania. This man, interestingly enough, had been the leader of a group of twenty-four Mennonites who had settled at Swaanandal or the "Valley of the Swans," in what is now the state of Delaware. In 1664 a contingent of soldiers under Captain Robert Carr destroyed the settlement and seized and carried away all the property that "belonged to the Quaking Society of Plockhoy," adding for emphasis, "to a very naile." The man's name was Peter Cornelius Plockhoy, an almost unknown, but nevertheless extremely interesting figure in the colonization of the New World.



Harkness House in 1900; occupied by Bank of United States 1798-1799

Of the private life of William Rittenhouse precious little is known outside of the names of his children, Nicholas, Gerhard or Garrett, and Elizabeth. He died on February 18, 1708, and now probably lies in the burial ground of the Mennonite church in Germantown, of which he and his sons were ministers, as well as members, and where a cenotaph has been erected in his honor.

The children of William Rittenhouse have likewise not provided an overabundance of material concerning their lives. Garrett seems to have had no connection with his father's mill, for in 1697 we find him in possession of a grist mill on Cresheim Creek. Elizabeth married Heivert (Howard) Papen, a miller, and the man who is said to have the somewhat dubious claim to fame of having built "the first stone house in Philadelphia."

By far the most important of the children of William was the elder son, Nicholas (Claus, or Klaas, etc.), born on June 15, 1666, in Broich. He came to this country with the rest of his family and was, as we have seen, always intimately associated with his father in the trade. He married Wilhelmina De Wees, the sister of William De Wees, in New York, in 1689.

While it has been the custom to call William Rittenhouse the first manufacturer of paper in this country, this is unquestionably a partial injustice to his son, Nicholas. For it is a question, how much the elder Rittenhouse could have done without the aid of his eldest son, who seems to have been an excellent carpenter, as well as paper-maker. As early as 1700 or 1701 Penn described the father as an old man, and "decrepid," so even at this early date he was probably little more than the nominal head, and not actually doing any great amount of work in the mill. Paper-workers worked long hours, in a very damp atmosphere, and their trade was most strenuous, so that they were likely to become old before their time, and this must have been the case with the elder Rittenhouse. How long he was "decrepid," and to what extent, we do not know. But, from the evidence which remains, it appears that Nicholas contributed quite as much, if not more than his father, to the success of the mill, and moreover was able to continue the establishment after the death of his father, a further proof of his ability. He continued to manufacture paper until his death, at the age of sixty-eight, some time after May 24, 1734, when, because he realized that he was dying, he made his will.

When Andrew Bradford established, in Philadelphia, the *American Weekly Mercury*, the first newspaper to be printed south of New England, on December 22, 1719, the paper on which it was printed was made at the Rittenhouse mill. The *New York Gazette*, the first paper printed in New York, and begun on November 8, 1725, was also on paper from this mill. Likewise the masterpiece of the Bradford press, the so-called "Second Bradford Laws," or *The Laws of the Province of Pennsylvania*, printed in 1728 by Andrew Bradford, is on paper bearing the water-mark of the Rittenhouse mill.

Nicholas Rittenhouse used many water-marks, some of them even when his father was the head of the mill. These he seems to have continued to use after he gained possession of the plant. In addition to those, from 1719 on, he used a KR, the "K" being for the Dutch *Klaas*, or the German *Klaus;* a clover leaf was inserted to the right of it, and both were inserted in a rectangle. Occasionally the KR appeared alone on one side of the sheet, and a clover leaf on the other side. Paper with these water-marks was not only used in Philadelphia, but was also sent to New York, to Andrew Bradford.

From two letters which are still in existence, we learn that the paper was forwarded to Bradford in New York by land and water. Nicholas Pearse, who handled the printer's account in Philadelphia, usually paid for the paper, which was then sent to New York. Bradford was in the habit of paying for part of it by sending in return rags, always a difficult substance to obtain. At that time they used linen rags to make all kinds of paper, including writing, printing, brown, and blue paper, as well as pasteboard.

The Rittenhouse mill was such a success that William De Wees, a brother-in-law of Nicholas, established the second paper mill in the colonies, in 1710, on the west side of the Wissahickon Creek, in that part of Germantown known as Crefeld, near the present line of Montgomery County, then called the "Manor of Springfield." It is certain that De Wees learned his trade from the Rittenhouses. However in 1713 this mill, and one hundred acres of land, were conveyed to "Abraham Tunis, William Streeper, Claus Ruttinghuysen and John Gorgas" for the sum of one hundred and forty-five pounds. The deed of rental, however, does not show that the mill was still in operation. The water-mark was a post horn in a shield over the letters D. A. In 1729 De Wees made a business contract with his son-in-law, Henry Antes, to operate a combination grist and paper mill. Another paper mill seems to have been run by his son, for, on a map made in 1746, we find that "Hy. De Wees' Paper Mill" is situated about a half of a mile below this one, at the bend of the Wissahickon Creek.

Like his father, Nicholas was also made a minister in the Mennonite Church, certainly before 1725, and perhaps as early as 1712. He has the further distinction of being the grandfather of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, who was born on April 8, 1732, shortly before his death, in the house which William and Nicholas Rittenhouse had built years previously. David's father was Matthew, the youngest son of Nicholas.

At an unknown date Nicholas had to build a new mill, for the one he made in 1702 later proved too small for the growth in business due to the increase

in printing presses in the colonies. The new building was erected on the opposite side of the creek from the still-existing Rittenhouse home of 1707. This mill continued in operation long after the death of its builder, for his eldest son, William, carried on the trade there for many years. The latter used a clover leaf over a ligatured WR for his water-mark. The mill seems to have been rebuilt in the lifetime of William, or perhaps just after he gained possession of it. When William died, the mill passed into the hands of his son, Jacob, also a paper-maker, who used the symbol IR underneath a crown for his water-mark. Jacob died in the year 1811, leaving the mill to his nephews, Enoch and Samuel. At this time and for years later, the mill was run by the Markle family, although the Rittenhouses still owned the land. Upon the death of Samuel, Enoch owned the property by himself until his own death in 1855. He thereupon left it to his cousin, Peter Rittenhouse. The fourth building in which the mill was operated was converted into a cotton factory about 1820, and eventually, in 1891, was torn down by order of the Park Commission, while the site was incorporated into Fairmount Park. The sole reminder of William and Nicholas Rittenhouse, outside of the paper they made, is the home of the family which still stands on the Lincoln Drive where Rittenhouse Street comes down from Germantown.

In studying history it is frequently necessary to point out that a trade was practiced, or an article was in use and was forgotten, years before it became known popularly, and was of no importance in bringing about its later revival. The Rittenhouse mill, on the other hand, remained in existence for about one hundred and fifty years, and was no doubt responsible in a great part for the fact that not only did other mills begin to make paper so early in Pennsylvania, but also that for years Pennsylvania had more and better mills than any other province. As such it assumes a degree of importance in the history of the nation, and most of the credit for it must go to William Rittenhouse and his son, Nicholas, as well as to their printer friend, William Bradford.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

By Paula H. Balano

THE beauty of stained glass is beyond description. Entirely contrary to the beauty of an oil painting or a water color inasmuch as a painting is a positive statement seen and felt through the eyes of the artist.

Glass has moods, depending on the light, brilliant under sunlight, muted, when the light softens. If you find a stained glass window which pleases you, visit the church at various times of the day and sitting quietly, permit the beauty to penetrate.

The creating of a stained glass window is an art. Each piece of glass which you pick and cut to the pattern should be like a stroke of pure color.

If you have an area which calls for the use of red glass, you should break the color by placing a vibrant brilliant red against a sharp one and even slipping a small piece of blue in between. Light shining through the glass at a distance will give the effect of violet. The secret of color in glass is to let the light do the blending instead of the brush, which would be the case in blending oils or water colors.

A well designed and executed window must have a balance of warm and cold colors, reds, oranges and yellows against cold blues and greens.

Neutral colors, such as soft light tones of blue green and even pale off pinks may be used to emphasize the rich colors and also to prevent the window from becoming too dark.

It should be remembered that a window is part of a wall and should be designed with this in view. For this reason, a picture window with pretty faces is most undesirable. All subjects should be translated into a decoration. The faces should be strong with the structure of the head emphasized and plenty of heavy shadows. This treatment will cause the character of the face to carry at a distance. Otherwise the face will become a blur of light. The face is not the most important part of a figure. The cathedral in Chartres, which is beyond criticism, proves the point. The face is necessary like a foot or a hand, but it is not of paramount importance.

(Continued on page 31)

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OLD INNS AND TAVERNS

(*Continued from page 10*)

question if these numbers refer to the new or the old method for locations).

The KING OF PRUSSIA Tavern, built about 1740–41, was located on the west side of the main road, above Schoolhouse Lane. Its architecture was of a residential type, a third floor enclosed within the lines of the gambrel roof. When it was demolished, about 1910, its well proportioned main entrance doorway and some of its fireplace mantels were built into a residence then in the construction stage in Chestnut Hill.

Information as to the first use of the building seems to be obscure, but it is recorded by an advertisement appearing in the Pennsylvania Gazette issued on December 15, 1757:

"Andrew Weckesser begs leave to inform the publick, That he has opened a House of entertainment in Germantown, at the sign of the King of Prussia, near John Jones's, Esq: where all Gentlemen, Ladies, Travelers, & c., may depend on the best usage. Their favors will be gratefully acknowledged by their humble Servant.

Andrew Weckesser."

The first stage coach "with an awning," operated by Coleman, ran three times each week, from here to the George Inn, at Second and Arch Streets. In an early visit to Germantown, Thomas Jefferson could not be accommodated with a room and was obliged to sleep in the common room; later, however, in November 1793, he remained at the inn for most of the month, having as dinner guests Alexander Hamilton and General Henry Knox.

On the sign standing in front of the inn was shown an equestrian figure of King Frederick of Prussia, painted by Gilbert Stuart; but the artist had more ambitious plans and was reluctant to acknowledge this evidence of ability. It was known that he aimed to have, as the subject for a portrait, George Washington, who was then living at the Morris house. Stuart lived at the inn for some time before he "hired" the house and studio (the old barn) at 5140, he found the bar of the "King" extremely magnetic.

The portrait of Frederick was finally obliterated, and the name of the place was alone displayed. This sign is still preserved in Germantown. Meetings of the Hiram Masonic Lodge were occasionally held here, and the members of the volunteer fire brigade made it their gathering place. As a special attraction, the proprietor displayed in 1830, a living elephant, and charging 12½ cents for a "ring side" view. This odd charge was the face value of a "levy," a coin circulated here but issued beyond our borders previous to 1857.

The use of the building as a public house ended in 1834.

Close to where Price Street extends eastward, there were several taverns on the east side of the Main street, and many times the number of proprietors. Here William Bowen's tavern acted as host on January 23, 1832, when sentiment in favor of a borough government became strong enough to warrant holding a public meeting; John Fanning Watson presiding. February 6, 1835, a meeting was held at Jacob S. Wunder's Hotel, in reference to the proposed removal of the State Capital; thirteen days later a second meeting suggested that Germantown should have equal chances with any other community for consideration as the seat of the Commonwealth. At Joseph Mullen's Railroad House, a number of citizens assembled on August 31, 1837, to form an organization in the township to maintain native rights, which, it was contended, were menaced by foreigners.

At indefinite times, taverns in this vicinity were also operated by Shingle and by Reeder. In 1838, a number of robberies in Germantown aroused the citizens to hold a meeting in Wunder's tavern.

Directly opposite on the west side of Main Street stood the FOUNTAIN INN, operated by Anthony Hergeshimer, during the war with England in 1814. William Endt or Ent recruited the "Germantown Blues" at this inn, and was thereby entitled to the rank of Commander, but his modest demeanor compelled him to reject this opportunity. He was later appointed as Orderly Sergeant. In 1804, the place had been known as the AVENUE HOTEL. The site of the Fountain Inn was later made part of Vernon Park.

The CONGRESS HOTEL was in existence for a short time in the building historically known as Dr. William Shippen's residence, "The Laurens," at Walnut Lane. Before its use as a hotel, it was known as the Manual Training Academy. After the release of Indian Chief Black Hawk, who had been imprisoned for insurrection, Mayor John Swift, on June 6, 1833, accompanied a party to this inn, to demonstrate to the chief the futility of revolt by his tribe.

The WIGWAM Hotel was in operation at 6211, about 1800, by Conrad Redheffer. It became the Democratic party headquarters, and was finally altered for domestic occupancy.

One of the favorite resorts of the teamsters was the WASHINGTON INN, erected in 1793, at the southeast corner of Washington Lane. It was first owned and operated by Winfrid Nice, and after his death, by his widow. When the Jefferson Society held their annual dinners there, Jesse Benner was the host. In 1831, proprietor Daniel Hein served as host for a community gathering to request that an additional county be formed, owing to the wide extent of Philadelphia county, in relation to the scant population. At election times, this was the official place for counting the votes for the several wards of the township.

Nothing remains of the inn buildings, but the name

is perpetuated by renaming its northern boundary, which was earlier known as Abington Road. During its last days it was owned by Henry Freas and managed by Matthias Ifill.

On the west side below Duval Street, believed to be the present 6336, stood THE SHIP HOUSE, the front part was erected about 1769, by a former sea-captain, Wigard Miller, who had bought the site from Jacob Hall, the owner since 1761. It was a plastered structure with a relief model of a sailing vessel built into one of the gables. Back of the building was a barn which was used in Revolutionary times for stabling the horses of the American army; later this building was enlarged by constructing a second floor hall with a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty—the first hall in the township.

At one time it was operated by George Peters, who changed the sign wording to PENN'S TREATY WITH THE INDIANS. The inn was especially popular with students who would journey here on their sleighing parties; it was also one of the regular stage stops.

In 1836 its use as an inn ended and it became a boarding and day school for young ladies, James Ford being the master, for a number of years. A daughter of annalist Watson was one of the students.

It was in this hall that Horace Greely and Wendell Phillips gave their discourses around 1840.

THE SADDLER'S ARMS—THE GREEN TREE—THE HORNET'S NEST. Carrying on from connecting Pastorius and the start of what has been left for our time in the form of the Green Tree Inn, with the first act of the settlement of Germantown, we may bring this chapter on to the present Daniel who built his house in 1748. D. S. P. can be seen on an incised stone in a gable. He had adopted the trade of a saddler, and with Sarah Shoemaker becoming his wife, they opened the SADDLER'S ARMS. His death occurred in 1754, and subsequently his widow married Daniel Mackenett, carrying the family name as the Mackenett's Inn. It was more or less the custom with the old inns to have the wife of the proprietor supervise the dining facilities and the culinary features, here Sarah soon became famous and the inn popular. Unfortunately for Sarah, she became a widow for the second time, and in 1761 married Andrew Heath. About 1797 the property and the business was bought by Charles Mackenett who named his new venture the Green Tree. Of many relics and curios that had accumulated to attract the interest of the patrons, the most popular seemed to be an extremely large hornet's nest which was hung "out front" and the inn became commonly known as the HORNET'S NEST. However, the title—THE GREEN TREE—has been more generally used by the historical writers. During the Battle of Germantown, the attacking American troops under General Wayne, were aiming to approach the center of the town from the east of the road, and managed to penetrate as far as the inn.

Lafayette was invited to visit Germantown in 1825, and arrangements were made to honor him with a dinner at the Green Tree. The evening before the event was to be celebrated, it was concluded that the accommodations were too limited, so a delegation visited the Chew homestead, where new arrangements were made for the dinner party, and with sixteen-year-old Ann Chew presiding as hostess.

The BUCK is referred to by John Russell Young, the historian, as "among the famous Philadelphia inns before the close of the 18th century." Johann Frederick Hesser arrived in this country in the year 1732. He purchased a property on the Great Germantown Road, part of a parcel known as Lot No. 10, and immediately set about building a house facing on the highway. This structure which was used as a bakery and an inn, was located at the upper end of the village across the road from St. Michael's Lutheran Church, where Frederick Hesser attended. It was torn down about 1900, to make way for Phil-Ellena Street to be cut westward from the main road.

In design, it was considered as one of the good examples of "Dutch" colonial, with two beautiful dormers on the front roof, a long wing extended to the rear, the house contained twenty some rooms. Here, also, was another place constructed of the local gray stone.

Hesser and his wife, Anna Maria Hofman, had eight children born at the inn, and son Johannes,

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rather than his father, built up the popularity of the house, so that it was thriving in the 1750's. It remained in the possession of the Hesser family until 1848, when it was purchased by George W. Carpenter.

One of the landmarks of many changes in name and proprietors was above Hartwell Avenue (probably 8223). At the various times it was known as GRAVERS, KLINES, HART'S, CHESTNUT HILL INN, but as GOLD'S HOTEL it was the stopping place for the teamsters and farmers, until this source of revenue in the 1880's.

The site was bought from Hannah Keyser, the daughter of Wigard Miller, by William Ottinger in 1797, and later transferred to William Ottinger Klein, his grandson. Subsequently it came into possession of Henry Broudt, then of Charles Heebner and finally of James Gould as its last landlord.

The GOLDEN SWAN TAVERN was in operation at McPherson Street in 1840 and continued most probably as a temperance house until some thirty years ago.

At Mt. Airy Avenue Jacob Mason conducted the SIGN OF THE SWAN, which for a number of years has been used as a store.

Definite action by the residents of the township for the construction of a railroad to Philadelphia was adopted here on November 13, 1830.

The MERMAID at the lower corner of the lane of the same name is probably the only old hotel which still continues its original function. Its exterior has been extensively changed, from its appearance in 1795, when it was opened by Martin Painter. A deed of 1819, when the property was transferred to Israel Gilbert, describes it as "a messuage or tenement occupied as a public tavern, containing three acres." It was later transferred to George Cress and still later to George W. Carpenter. The names of Webber, Beans, and Clark are also given as hosts. Eighty years ago it was owned by the Carpenter estate and operated by John Hinkle.

The Mermaid was not a stage stop, but was popular for turkey shooting contests, for coaching parties, and for the training of prizefighters.

On the west side of the road, about a half mile from the Mermaid, was a hotel kept by Anthony Hinkle, who was succeeded by his son John. In the tax lists of 1769 and 1774 John's occupation is given as innkeeper.

At the corner of Carpenters Lane, where the fire department is now stationed, there was the GERMANTOWN HOTEL, which, at an earlier time had been known as the FARMER'S AND DROVER'S HOTEL.

Of the STEAM BOAT HOUSE little beyond the name has been found, but it is supposed to have been on the east side of the road between Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Sedgwick Street. Formerly a Mr. Erasmus James Pierce was the landlord; he was succeeded by Mrs. Bostwick.

The old MT. PLEASANT INN is another mystery, old records tell us that in 1824 Edward Bonsall had a drug store in the building, and later, that John Miller enlarged the house, and kept a store there. The location is given as near the lower depot of Mt. Airy.

SHEPHERDS INN. There seems to have been little fear of competition due to the close proximity of the inns and taverns in the Chestnut Hill center, as the same nearness was evident in the Price Street region.

In the upper section, William Streeper was an extensive land holder. In 1739 he sold to John Shepherd, a plot which included the starting point eastward of Highland Avenue; in turn Shepherd, who, in deed of 1763 is called a "shopkeeper alias innkeeper" transferred to Samuel Bachman, "a certain messuage

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or two story house on the northeast side of the North Wales Road, in Creesam (anciently called Sommerhausen, or Chestnut Hill).

SCULL'S INN. In the same general area and shortly later (1750), Edward Scull acquired twenty-five acres from Streeper, on which he built a hotel. This tract extended northward from the Pennsylvania Railroad terminus to the Presbyterian parsonage and westward to the Thomas's Mill Road. Scull was indicated as the owner of the property, on a map of the Colonies published in 1759.

A decade later J. Henry Antes, son of Henry Antes, bought the Scull Hotel and sufficient additional land to increase his holdings to one hundred acres. Antes borrowed from Abraham Rex, money to purchase the property and the tax list of 1769 credits him as the proprietor of the tavern. This location was a most desirable one for a hotel, its being on the direct line connecting the Reading and Bethlehem sections with the northern settlements of Philadelphia, provided daily a goodly number of people passing by; the Scotch-Irish from the upper settlements along the Delaware, and the Germans of the counties of Berks and Montgomery. Antes' father was in the good graces of the Germans, and his uncle and a brother were both Justices of the Peace.

In 1773, Antes sold his interests in the tavern and settled beyond the Susquehanna River. The property continued as a hotel until the 1860's; it was for a time the headquarters of the Democratic party, then being known as the General Jackson Hotel, later it was known as the Titlow Hotel. As a source of public amusement, a black bear was chained to a large buttonwood tree in front of the building.

More of the Streeper land provided the site for DONAT'S HOTEL at the southwest corner of Highland Avenue. It was claimed that a date stone on the chimney gave the date of 1712, but the earliest deed transferred the land from William Streeper to Jacob Colladay in 1754. Blasius Machenett became the owner in 1763, Jacob Geiger in 1780, and in 1785 it was transferred to Nicholas Berndollar; and in 1800, Levi Rex, the landlord, converted it into a temperance hotel. Christian Donat bought the property in 1842, and continued as owner until his death about 1890. This was a teamsters hotel as long as that class of hostelries existed, and after the through highway was opened in 1804, numerous farm vehicles would form long lines on the fronting road. The hotel finally became the muster place of the Republican faction, and known as the American-Republican Hotel.

In Revolutionary days Henry Cress operated a hotel diagonally opposite Donat's. This place served as a hospital for the American troops during the Battle of Germantown. Later it was burned by the opposing troops but shortly after, was rebuilt. When the yellow fever was rampant in the city in 1794, it was the refuge for many Philadelphians.

Henry Cress, Sr., died in 1798 and the property re-

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verted to his son Henry, Jr. In 1817 it passed to Charles Nice, and in 1818 to Leonard Kittinger; three years later it was sold to Jacob Peters, in whose family it continued for a hundred years, finally under the name of Peter's daughter, Mrs. Catharine Comly. Peters was also a stage line proprietor, and this hotel served as a stage stop until the railroads began operating. Then the hotel lost most of its overnight trade and became entirely a drinking place, and ceased operation as a hotel.

At the junction of Germantown Road and Bethlehem Pike stood the MAPLE LAWN INN. The date of its erection remains a question, and as to its first use the earlier historians have left little for posterity; however, the one point in the memory of those who recall this old inn, is that the common name by which it is generally recalled was the DUSTPAN. Situated in the fork of the two main dirt highways, the wind coming from any direction was sure to carry an ample amount of dust, on the dry days.

During the times that it functioned as an inn it was attractive to city residents who came here to escape the summer heat, and to be assured of the cooler breezes. Present memories give the date of removal as about 1920 to 1925.

At the time of the Revolution it served as the temporary quarters of General Howe. In 1777 it was a target for foraging parties of British troops, and a legend tells us that on days when the supply of bread was being taken from the oven, each "Tommy Vandal" would charge and then march on with a loaf of bread on his fixed bayonet. Foraging in Chestnut Hill was not an uncommon diversion of the "unwelcome guests." After peaceful days arrived the American government paid in claims of the residents, sums varying from one hundred fifteen pounds to seventeen hundred and fifty pounds. Matthias Bush, then owner of the property, was paid six hundred forty pounds for the damage which he suffered.

The old building housed a store for some time, in 1790 it was bought from Bush by James McCawley; it was successively kept by James Lentz and later by Bates and Yeakel.

Several writers have suggested names of taverns as existing in the Germantown-Chestnut Hill areas, but no descriptive matter of The Crown, or Crown and Cushion; The Indian King; The Lamb Tavern; Sign of the Bonny Jockey, 1783; The White Swan, 1800; Sign of the Swan, 1790, Germantown; Washington Hotel, 1850, Germantown Avenue and Schoolhouse Lane; or The Stag Inn; has been found.

It is hoped that more complete data, regarding the various public houses may eventually come to light; whereby posterity can appreciate conditions surrounding the growth and advancement, from the primitive beginning to a place of national historic fame. While most of the old inn structures have disappeared, our heritage embraces many other buildings of antiquity and merit; therefore we should be alert for every opportunity to stop ruthless destruction or mutilation

of our hallowed shrines, to strengthen the slogan "Germantown—a page of American History."

Data connecting the Hesser family with the Buck Inn, is from "A History of the Hesser Family" as compiled by George Ernest Hesser in 1947, and graciously furnished to the author by Paul M. Hesser, Jr., now residing on the land of his ancestors.

The Mills at the Mouth of the Creek

(Continued from page 15)

Thomas Livezey of "Glen Fern" on the creek—secondly he married Elizabeth Heath also of the Livezey family, an able preacher in Friend's Meeting.

Peter died in 1833 and willed his land and mills to his sons, Andrew 4th and Jonathan. Andrew settled in New Bedford, Mass., a far cry from the Wissahickon. Here he manufactured cotton goods and was interested in the whaling industry. He retained his interest until his death, for subject to his will of October 5th, 1856 his executors, Wm. R. and Andrew, together with his widow, sold the mills in 1862 to John and James Dobson. The large cotton mill (mill no 2) had developed by this time on the East side of the creek. The Dobsons at first leased it, but purchased the whole tract after the mill burned down in '62. They built a much larger mill on the site. Here, then, was one of the famous Dobson Mills that made blue woolen cloth for the Union Army. Mill no. 1 at the mouth of the creek was still standing—as was the original blacksmith shop.

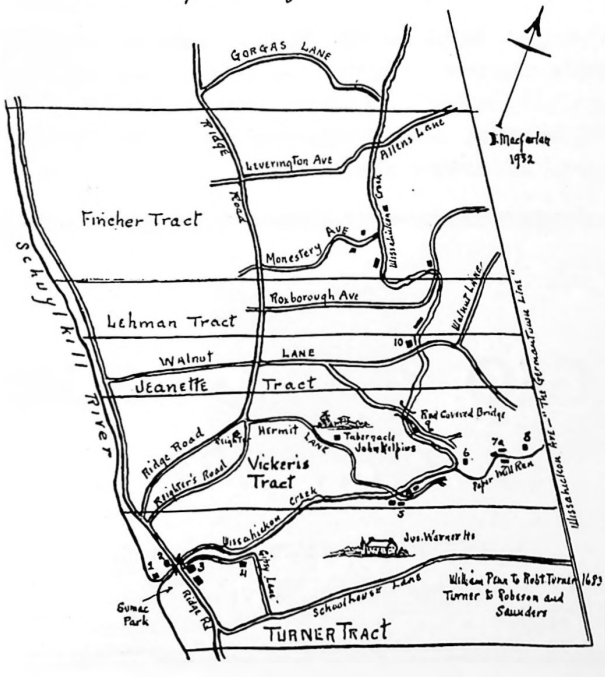
In 1869 the city purchased all the land through which the Wissahickon flowed, and removed the Dobson Mill.

One must not leave the story here, but must follow the history of the little building on the edge of the Schuylkill, already referred to as mill no. 1. Chadwick, the historian of Roxborough, says that it was the first cut-nail factory in America, and also later the rolling mill of Amos Jones. In a survey of 1850 it is called a log-wood mill, which meant dyemaking. It was then under lease by Minister and Moore, both of whom had married into the Robeson family.

From 1877 to 1887 the mill was occupied by the famous State-in-Schuylkill Fishing Club, and in 1905 there was located here the Philadelphia Canoe Club.

Such then is the story of the mills at the mouth of the creek; it is particularly interesting from the point of view of the continuous industry at the site for nearly two hundred years, saw mill, grist mill, dyeworks, and cotton factories, and for the names associated with the ownerships: Penn, Richard Townsend, the Robesons and Dobsons.

Roxborough Tracts bought by Early Settlers with location of Mills along the Wissahickon Creek



Andrew Robeson, 2nd (1654–1719), married Mary Spencer in 1685. She is buried in Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church yard, while her husband was buried at St. Gabriel's Swedish Church in Douglassville on the Schuylkill. Andrew 2nd was judge of Gloucester County, N. J. in 1692 and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania (1693–1699). In 1714 he purchased 1,000 acres of iron ore land near Reading where with Thomas Potts, whom his daughter Magdalena married, he promoted the newly developed iron industry in that neighborhood. He was chiefly responsible for opening up the Ridge Road from the city to his iron mines at Manatawny.

Acknowledgements are made to the studies and writings of Jas. F. Magee, published in The Suburban Press, Roxborough, 1934—now collected and filed, with these studies in the Free Library of Philadelphia.

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About Our Authors

ERNEST HOWARD YARDLEY is chairman, Committee on Biography and History, Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

Member, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Member, National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings.

Author, The Restoration of Congress Hall, Independence Square, Philadelphia.

Author, Past and Present Buildings of Independence Square and the East Mall.

MRS. PAULA H. BALANO is the daughter of the prominent Philadelphia musician and teacher who started the well known Musical Academy at Seventeenth and Spruce Streets. He later sold this academy to Richard Zeckwer.

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ANNA BLAKISTON DAY is the widow of Frank Miles Day, one of Philadelphia's most eminent artists and architects. Mrs. Day is one of our leading Philadelphia women and has taken an active part in many local enterprises. She was one of the founders of "The Friends of the Wissahickon," and has been its secretary for twenty-eight years. She is also an enthusiastic member of the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, a member of "The New Century Club of Philadelphia," and for many years a member of the Church of St. Martins in the Fields of Chestnut Hill.

COLONEL MILLARD D. BROWN was born in Philadelphia and was removed to Germantown at the age of six. He began working in the Continental Mills in 1899, shortly after graduating from the Northeast Manual Training School.

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During the First World War Colonel Brown was the commanding officer of the 109th Infantry Division, AEF.

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From 1901 to 1918 he served in the First Regiment Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard. Has seen service in the anthracite coal strike of 1902 and on the Mexican border in 1916. During World War I, the First and 13th Regiments, Pennsylvania National Guard, were consolidated to form the 109th Infantry, 28th Division. Colonel Brown commanded this regiment overseas and participated with it in two major offensives. The end of the war found him as Adjutant of the large army base at Brest.

DOUGLAS MACFARLAN, M.D., B.S., University of Pennsylvania. Otolaryngologist. Author of numerous monographs on hearing and deafness, chairman of committees on deafness of the County and State Medical Societies, member of the Council on Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation of the American Medical Association, the College of Physicians, the American Otological Society, etc., etc. Board of Directors Montgomery County Historical Society, the Lower Merion Historical Society, and Haverford Township Historical Society. Author of numerous articles on the history of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods of Philadelphia and vicinity, Washington's Movements Around Philadelphia in 1777–78; Valley Forge Picket Posts, Outposts and Signal Trees, Revolutionary Military Hospitals in Pennsylvania; Early Roads, Fords and Ferries around Philadelphia; The Main Line in Colonial Times; Mills Along the Wissahickon (3 volumes). Major, M.C., U. S. Army, World War I. Born in Philadelphia 1886.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

(Continued from page 23)

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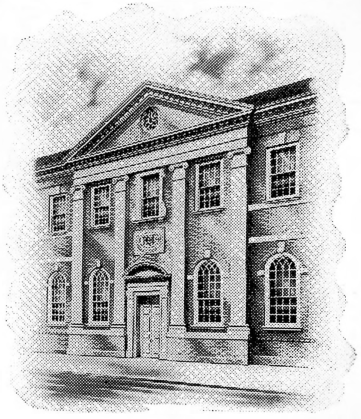
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Continental Mills, Inc. . . . . 2nd Cover
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Kirk & Nice 32
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Maurer, Eugene, Inc. 32
Middletons, The 31
Morsello, Joseph F. 30
National Bank of Germantown . . . . . Back Cover
Newton Coal Co., George B. 28
Northern Liberties Federal Savings & Loan Association 4
Peberdy & Son, Inc., Charles 26
Pennsylvania Company . . . . . 2nd Cover
Plumbers Supply Co., Inc. 26
Priestman-Helmetag Co. 27
Real Estate Trust Company . . . . . 3rd Cover
Nelson M. Reider 23
Reliance Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n 27
Rowell, C. A. 4
Schuck Electric Co. 32
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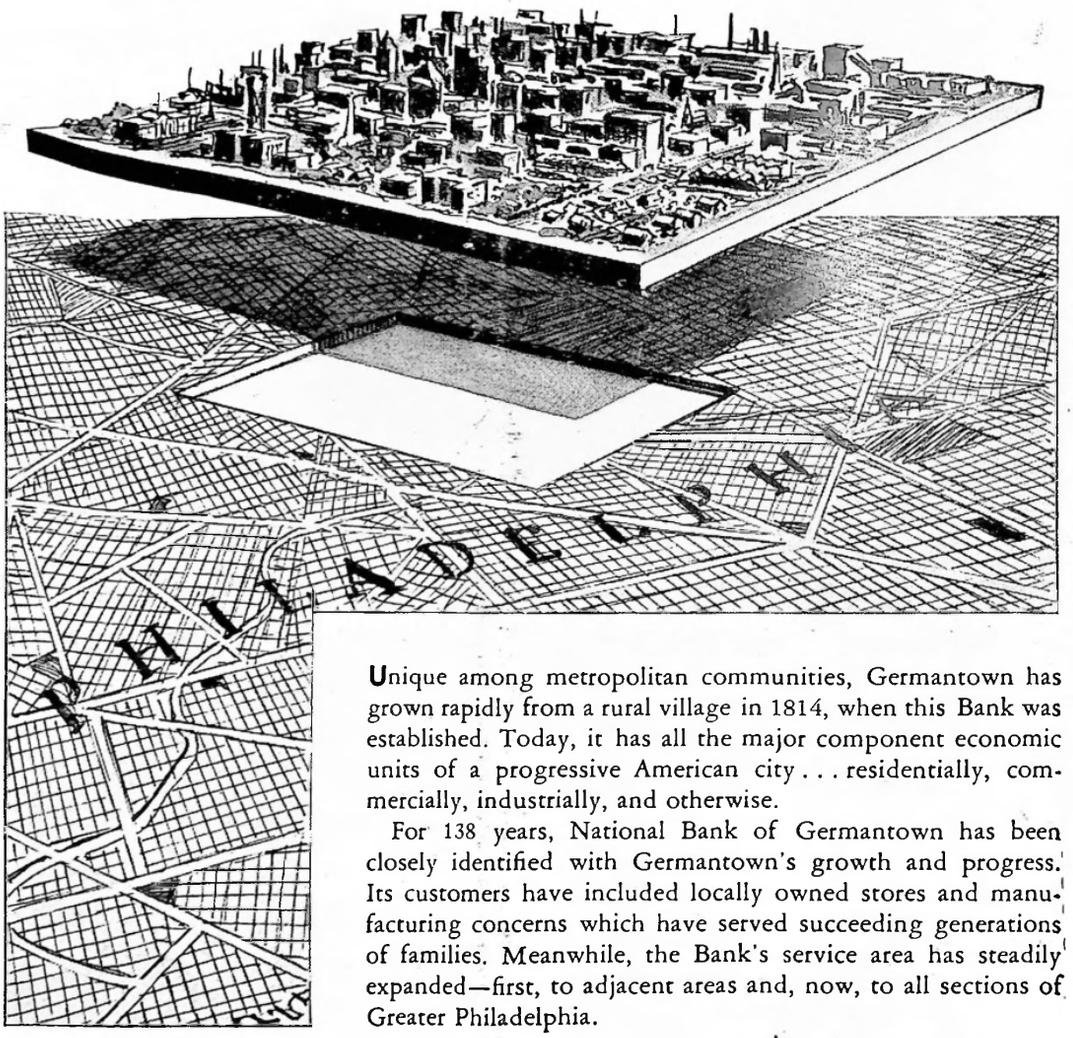
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