GERMANTOWNE CRIER



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Photo by Joseph Marsello

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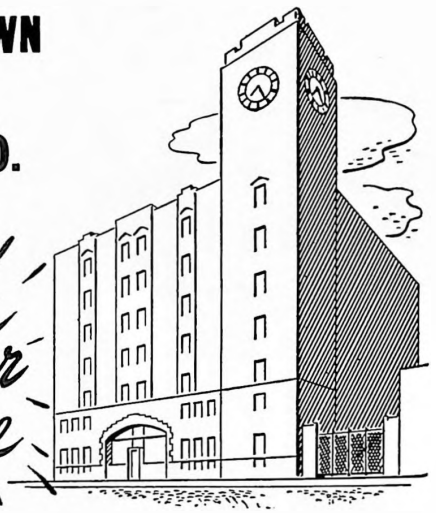
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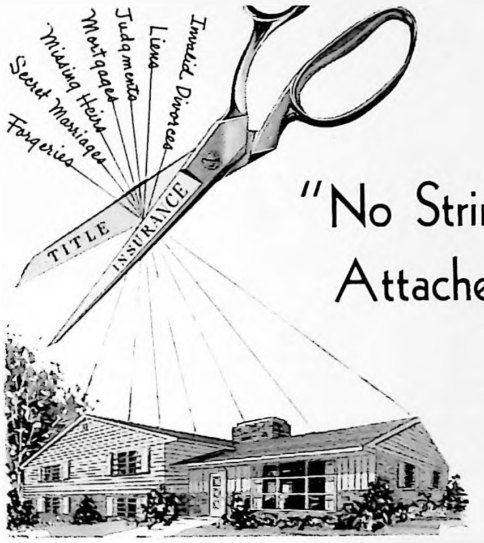
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AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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

Membership dues are:

Junior, Teacher, or Librarian Membership	$3.00
Annual	6.00
Sustaining, or Business	10.00
Life (may be payable quarterly)	100.00

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

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The Historical Society is a source of pride and interest to many Germantowners, even outside its membership, but while enthusiasm and interest are most valuable assets, the actual necessities of operation need something sterner and more tangible.

"The Society functions on an amazingly small budget in maintaining its Museum in the Hacker House and its Library and publications offices in the Baynton House next door. Properly caring for and safeguarding these buildings and their contents, and operating the Morris House, with which the Society is proud to be entrusted, impose an arduous financial burden."

In making a will remember how gracious a gesture a bequest to so fine a local project would be. Thus the community would be assured of the dignified safety of its priceless historical heritage.

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COMING EVENTS

Arrangements have been made for the Annual Meeting October 23rd, 1958, celebrating the 275 Anniversary of the Founding of Germantown. Mr. Joseph Haines Price will speak on "Life in Early Germantown."

November 20th. Dr. Amandus Johnson, Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society and Founder of the American-Swedish Historical Museum, an authority on the Swedish settlements in America will address the membership on the subject "William Penn and the Swedes."

The Garden Party will assemble in the society's garden 5214 Germantown Ave.

June 5th, 1958. Dessert will be served at 7.30. Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw Jr. will tell about the restoration of "The Olympis;" the Hon. Harold D. Saylor will speak on recent developments in the preservation of historic houses in Philadelphia, and, Colored slides of old Germantown houses will be shown. Guests are welcome. RSVP

CORRECTION

We regret the error in title of Poem by Lisl Stork on Page 12 of the December issue. The correct title is SNOW ARCH.

NEW MEMBERS

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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



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The Publications Committee is now located in its new offices in the Baynton House, 5208 Germantown Ave. Office hours will be announced later.

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SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS

Complete sets of the Germantowne Crier consisting of (31) all numbers issued to date, are being offered (on order) at $4 per set plus 50c postage if mailed.

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

Various issues of Volume One and Two, of the old "Site and Relic Society's" publications, are for sale at the Museum. Some of the second volumes are in the name of the Germantown Historical Society, the old name being discontinued during that period. The publications start from the very beginning of the Society, and many of the articles were written by old historians now dead, and constitute first hand information.

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

"HISTORIC GERMANTOWN" a special limited edition book of 150 pages, published with the cooperation of the American Philosophical Society, includes an outline of the early history of Germantown, together with views of historic Germantown houses with their plans and architectural and historic information.

The books are 9½ by 12 inches, bound in hard covers, and are available at cost of $5.00 per copy delivered, or $5.25 by mail to any address. Please address requests accompanied by check to. order of Germantown Historical Society to: Captain Edmund A Crenshaw, Jr., 519 Pelham Road, Philadelphia 19, Penna.

Decorative ceramic tiles showing the front view of the Morris House, Germantown. The tiles are six inches square, and are backed with thin cork insulation for use on a dining table, or they may be hung on a wall by an attached eyelet. The cost is $1.00 each, and may be purchased at the Museum or the Morris House.

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Published March, May, September, December—Germantown Historical Society

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

FOR THE first time in the history of our Lecture series our meeting had to be cancelled on March 20th due to the very heavy snow storm which arrived with the first day of spring. In the past some hardy members have always showed up in spite of some pretty bad weather but conditions that day were too bad, the Lecturer was snow bound and notice had to be put on the Radio and through chain phone calls with the co-operation of several Members. We hope that this very interesting lecture by Mr. Heydinger may be scheduled for a later date.

On March 13th the Museum was visited by a class of the Kinsey School and on the 27th by the Third Grade of the Germantown Friends School, both groups expressing much interest in their trip.

On April 10th we were honored by having the Eastern Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians select Germantown as the site for their annual conference. This conference consists of the history classes of the Eastern Montgomery County Schools. Their particular mission was a visit to the Museum and to the Morris House. Nearly 200 members including teachers arrived headed by Dr. Allen C. Harman, Asst. Supt. and were conducted through the Museum and the Morris House by a number of members of the Historical Society who volunteered for the occasion. This Club is a most worth while contribution to the move to increase interest in matters of historical and community importance and it is to be hoped that more such organizations may be formed. Our visitors were an exceedingly well behaved and interested group whom it was a pleasure to have with us.

On Sunday April 20th, the Second Church of Christ Scientist conducted a tour of Germantown for their members and a number of Armed Service men guests, and will also visit the Museum and the Morris House.

The annual Spring Tour of Historic Houses in Germantown will be held on the afternoon of May 17th, as reported elsewhere in this issue. It is hoped that all Members will assist the Tour by bringing guests to see this carefully planned event.

Extensive repairs to the Morris House which were interrupted by our very severe winter weather have now been resumed and will, we hope, be largely completed in time for the Tour and for the opening of the Tourist season.

The Morris House Ladies Committee held a very successful card party on March 24th for the benefit of the House, resulting in a very welcome addition to the finances designated for interior improvements of the House and furnishings.

Recent donations to the Museum have required some increase in our display facilities and indicate an approaching need for more space for the Museum in general.

These donations include:

A Doctor's saddle bag used by Dr. Williams of Germantown

A set of China presented by Miss Groff of Norristown, also toys, dolls, purses, jewelry and buttons.

Coverlets and quilts from the estate of Mrs. Norman Mellor.

Three dolls from Mrs. Sheak of Germantown.

The water cooler in use for many years at the old Phila., Germantown and Norristown Rail Road depot at Price Street, from Mr. John W. Burke of Wynnewood, Penna.

A number of negatives and plates from Mrs. Kimber and Mrs. Samuel Emlen, the pictures having been taken by Mr. Reuben Haines.

EDMUND A. CRENSHAW, JR.

The Twelfth Annual Wissahickon Valley Horse Show

Final Event of 1958 Germantown Week

BY RICHARD W. CAUFFMAN

THE final event of the 1958 "Germantown Week" will be the 12th Annual Wissahickon Valley Horse Show, the only registered Horse Show to be held in Philadelphia this year, on Sunday, May 18th starting at 9 A.M.

As has been the case for the past 11 years, the Horse Show will be held at "Hickory Hall," the Colonial estate of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Heckmann on Mt. Airy Avenue, west of Wissahickon Avenue. Mr. Heckmann, long associated with Horse Shows and Horse events in and around Philadelphia, is the Immediate Past President of the Optimist Club of Germantown, sponsors of the show for its "Boys' Work Fund" and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Both the Optimist Club of Germantown and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania are members of the Germantown Community Council and both will have booths at the Vernon Fair on Wednesday, May 14th.

Mr. Heckmann will serve as the Show's General

(*Continued on page 24*)

Save the Wissahickon Valley—(*See page 21*)

GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Volume 10 MAY, 1958 Number 2

Notes on "Grumblethorpe"

By G. Clarence Johnson,

Architect for the Restoration

"WISTER BIG HOUSE" in German Towne, as it was called, was built by John Wister in 1744, as a Country Seat.

John Wister (1708–1789) was the second son of Hans Caspar and Katerina Wüster of Hillspach, near Heidelberg, Germany; who came to America in 1727. His older brother Caspar, had preceded him, coming to America in 1717.

John Wister lived in Philadelphia on High Street (now Market St.), between Third and Fourth, what is now No. 325, where he cultivated blackberries and made and imported wine. He became a successful merchant and a great land owner, among his purchases, he bought in 1741, a considerable tract of land in Germantown on the east side of Germantown Road. Much of it was heavily timbered and the eastern part of his forest lands remain today as "Wister's Wood Park." All the stone used for the walls of Grumblethorpe was quarried on the place and the woodwork came from trees hewn in his woods, when he built his country house in 1744, the first country seat built in Germantown.

It seems that John Wister brought with him from his old home the proverbial German love of fruits and flowers, for behind the house was a long garden 188 feet wide by 450 feet long, which he laid out on each side of an axial walk in simple pattern of series of rectangles, bordered by box. He stocked it with the choicest fruit bearing trees and planted it with unusual variety of shrubs and flowers, many of them of rare sorts.

It is said of John Wister that,—"He was a man of the strictest uprightness and integrity, as well as of great kindliness and simplicity of character. He caused bread to be baked every Saturday to be distributed among the poor, who came in numbers to his door to receive it."

John Wister's house at the time it was built in 1744, was a three and half story front building, the third story and attic were in the roof. The house covered an area of 43′5″ x 34′4″, with a rear wing extending back 52′6″, containing a roofed over passageway to the great kitchen and beyond it the summer kitchen. The great and curious pump was located near the kitchen door.

During the British occupancy of Philadelphia, John Wister, then an elderly man, stayed in his town house. His Germantown house at the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, was occupied by Brigadier General James Agnew. Returning from battle that day, the General was picked off by a sharp shooter from back of the wall at the Upper Burying Ground. He was brought back to the Wister house, fatally wounded and died almost immediately. The blood stains from his wounds can still be seen on the floor in the large north west parlour, where he died. His faithful orderly wrote a detailed account of the tragedy.

Daniel Wister (1738–1805), the eldest son of John Wister, inherited the property from his father and it was during his ownership that the barn which was directly back of the Tenant house, was in 1799 moved to the rear of the property and enlarged.

It was Daniel Wister's eldest daughter, Sally, who as a girl of sixteen, wrote her famous "Sally Wister's Journal" in 1777 and 1778, giving vivid scenes of the Revolutionary War.

Charles Jones Wister (1782–1865), son of Daniel Wister, was the next owner of "Wister's Big House" and it was he who gave it the name that has come down through the years, "Grumblethorpe," and many have asked why? Doctor James W. Wister, a direct descendant of John Wister, in a little pamphlet he had printed in 1943, has this to say about it. "It has been all of twenty years ago, that one day I happened to

meet near the old house, Hannah Morris, a daughter of Samuel Morris, a Philadelphia Quaker of Rising Sun, now a part of Olney. And in the course of our conversation, about the old house, she said "Do you know why it is called 'Grumblethorpe'? Replying I didn't with any certainty, 'She said "then I will tell you what I know about it. Your late Uncle who lived there, told me that his father, Charles J. Wister, the elder, got the name out of a book, "Thinks-I-To-Myself," which described an Estate in England called 'Grumblethorpe,' and he adopted it because he thought the two places were so similar. I guess the book must still be there in the Library, but I have a copy that I'll lend you if you can't find it." Doctor Wister was much impressed with the story and made a search in the Library at Grumblethorpe and after digging around for some time, finally found it on the top shelf. The front cover was missing, but title page was intact: "Thinks-I-To-Myself, A Tragico-Comico Tale, written by, Thinks-I-To-Myself,—Who?-Boston-1812. First American from the Fourth London Edition." * See page 25.

"The first few pages gave the information I wanted. There was the name "Grumblethorpe" in large letters, an old Manor House in the suburbs of London. "The home," according to the text, "of a highly respectable family. . . . Their rank in life conspicuous, their punctuality as to the discharge of just debts and . . . Divers personalities of all ranks" etc., etc. Doctor Wister could see the similarity.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century there was a wave of modernization that overspread the Country and Charles J. Wister, Sr. made many changes to Grumblethorpe, duting 1806 to 1809. The pent roofs and balconies were removed, dormers were added to the roof and the first story windows were enlarged; the stoops with their fixed seats which graced the front of the house were removed and the entrance had a column doorway superimposed upon the simple dignity of the old residence, and the beautiful old face stone of the street front was rough casted. How do we know all this? Fortunately records were kept. In the "Memoirs Of Charles J. Wister" by Charles J. Wister Jr., it speaks of the house in its earliest days, even states that there was a brick pavement across the front of the house, a most unusual thing in those early days in Germantown, and it was enclosed with a post and rail enclosure to keep the cattle out, which was painted red. Also there have come down to us, pencil sketches as to how the house originally was in 1744; there is also a large scale model of the main part of the house made by Charles J. Wister, Jr. The rear wing had several stories added to it, at the time the changes were made to the front. After 1812, Grumblethorpe became the year around abode of the Wisters.

Charles J. Wister, Jr., (1822–1910) inherited Grumblethorpe and was the last of the Wisters to live there. He was a man of many accomplishments, among them, an artist, a writer, a musician and interested in several scientific pursuits. After 1910, the ownership of Grumblethorpe was then shared by Mr. Wister's nephews, Owen Wister, the novelist, and Alexander W. Wister. Neither of them ever occupied the historic place. For many years it was in charge of a caretaker.

In 1937 the Grumblethorpe Association was formed, or Committee as it was later called, under the direction of Miss Frances A. Wister, Chairman, who devoted much time to the thought of its preservation. In 1940, Grumblethorpe became allied with the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. 1943 saw the restoration of portions of the interiors of the first floor. Nineteenth century interior finish and marble mantels were removed and restored as it originally was.

In 1956, The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks decided that a start should be made in the restoration and repairs to Grumblethorpe, especially on the front part of the house, which needed a new roof very badly. I was commissioned as architect for this work.

A thorough study was made of its present construction, which was found to be most substantially built, all timbers of oak, roof construction pegged together. The attic revealed an old shingle roof under the then disintegrated slate roof. The dormers construction showed that they had been built in later. After the stucco had been removed from the street front of the building, all the changes which had been made in 1806 were revealed; the courting door to the great parlour, where a window had been built in its place and stoned up below, the same thing on the second story where there had been a door and balcony. All outlookers were there cut close to the stone wall, which had supported the pent roof over the first story windows and the face of the fine dressed stone wall and some of the wide white pointing could now be seen. The location of the old outside cellarway was there with its stone arched head. Other facts were revealed by the removal of the old porch ceiling on the rear of the house. In a process of removing the paint, layer by layer from the woodwork of some of the known original windows, the original color under many coats of cream or white proved to be a brownish red. This color has been used in restoration.

Estimates were taken and a contract awarded. The dormers were removed, also the old wood shingle and the slate roofs, new sheathing took the place of the old oak sheathing lath and a new roof of fireproof shingles resembling wood shingles was put on. Main wood cornices which were in bad shape had to be renewed, old handmade nails were found in some of the old moldings of the cornice.

In 1957, after much research and study, the restoration for the completion of the front and sides of the main part of the house made progress. The first story

(Continued on page 25)

THE *WELCOME'S* JOURNEY

An Address delivered By George P. Orr, Esq., L.L.D. *before The Welcome Society of Pennsylvania on October 24, 1957, at The Union League of Philadelphia, commemorating the 275th Anniversary of the Arrival of William Penn. Reprinted by permission of its president Thomas Elliott Wynne and George P. Orr Esq. L.L.D.*

TWO HUNDRED and seventy-six years ago a little bark of 300 tons passed into the Delaware Bay after one of the most tragic and historic Atlantic passages ever completed.

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Some years ago it seemed to me that it might be of great interest to recreate the *Welcome* and her accommodations in miniature; to better understand what our sturdy and peace-loving ancestors experienced, huddled together for two months on a little square-rigged bark less than one two-hundredth of the tonnage of the *Queen Mary*.

Volumes were studied, ship models and old prints and paintings examined, but we then came to the conclusion that no authentic plan or picture of the *Welcome* existed. There *were* two models, two prints and an etching, but they were all of fairly recent origin, and differed so widely that they were of little value.

There is no log of the *Welcome* nor diary of its passengers, save a few fragments, not even a passenger list. The list of passengers used by this Society was compiled from wills and other documents executed and witnessed on board, and letters written by the passengers.

So meager was the accurate data that the plan to build a model was abandoned. But when news came of the proposed duplication of the *Mayflower*, hope, that springs eternal, revived.

Those interested in the reconstruction of the *Mayflower* were no more successful in *their* search for authentic plans, *but* they *were* able through the study of contemporary plans of barks of similar dimensions to duplicate, for all practical purposes, the *Mayflower*, so why not a model of the *Welcome?*

We know that she was built before 1682, and probably in the British Isles; that she was a bark of 300 tons, measuring 109 feet over all. She was capable of carrying 110 passengers and a crew of 30 in transatlantic passage.

The Free Library, the Pennsylvania Historical Society and the Union League Library, yielded much material in the way of descriptions, reproductions of contemporary plans of other vessels of like date, tonnage, etc., while Naval and Marine Museums contained models of barks of the period.

We boarded the *Mayflower the Second*, and, while the *Mayflower* was probably built fifty years earlier than the *Welcome*, pictures and plans of barks down to Penn's time reveal no radical changes excepting that there was a tendency to pay more attention to speed, whereas buoyancy was the prime object in the *Mayflower*.

Fortunately we found a reproduction of an interior plan of a bark of practically the same size and date.

Now whence came these ancestors of ours? Where did they board the *Welcome?* What were they to receive; what did they pay for passage; what were the conditions under which they sailed; what hardships did they endure?

In the main, they came from southeast England; Dr. Wynne and two other families came from Wales, and one family from Ireland.

Penn lived at Worminghurst in Sussex, west of Canterbury. Deal, the port of departure, is a little town halfway between Dover and Ramsgate, on the Dover Straits, or rather on the "Downs." The Downs are, or rather is, a harbor protected by the Goodwin sands and the north and south Forelands. It is generally supposed to be where Julius Caesar landed in England. Those of us who have been to Dover were just ten miles west of Deal.

Each master was entitled, in addition to his original grant—usually of 1000 acres—50 acres for each servant at four shillings per year quit rent, and, when each servant had served his term, he was to receive an additional 50 acres at a quit rent of two

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Reprinted by permission of Mr. Thomas Elliott Wynne, President of The Welcome Society of Pennsylvania, and George P. Orr, Esq., LLD.

shillings per year. Captain Greenaway, master of the *Welcome*, purchased 1500 acres.

The cost of the journey to America was six pounds per head for masters and mistresses, five pounds for each servant, fifty shillings for each child under ten, sucking infants free.

Freight was forty shillings per ton, but each passenger was allowed one chest free. And, believe it or not, no tax.

Before sailing, Penn purchased a complete set of shipwright's tools and furnishings.

The *London Weekly News* of August 29, 1682, reported that Penn's wife accompanied him as far as the Dover Road. The *London Gazette* of the same date, stated that there were some thirty merchant ships in the Downs at the time, two or three of which were bound for Pennsylvania, and that about one hundred friends were sailing with William Penn, many of them from his own County of Sussex.

Penn was at this time 38 years of age, he was on the verge of bankruptcy, having mortgaged his estates in Ireland to the last penny. He had learned navigation from his sea-going father.

Apparently most of the passengers went aboard the *Welcome* by barge as they arrived in Deal, but Penn remained on shore, probably at the Inn, until the morning of sailing, for Dixon wrote almost one hundred years ago:

"The *Welcome*, which was to take him out to America, was already in the Downs. Compared with many other ships then navigating the Atlantic, the *Welcome*, carrying 300 tons' burden was a stately bark. On deck a hundred pale and anxious faces gathered; it was getting deep into the Autumn, and a Winter's voyage was then regarded with alarm. The men were well-to-do and many of them had been used from their birth to all comforts of life. As yet the Governor was on shore; but his servants, his furniture, his wine, his guns, his horses, his provisions, his wardrobe, his carved doors and window frames, and the whole interior decoration of the house at Pennsbury Manor were on board.

"The voyage might last from 6 to 14 weeks, according to the wind and weather, and every man had been provisioned for a longer term."

"Imagine 100 immigrants so furnished; the grunting of the hogs, the screaming of the fowls, the baaing of the sheep, the gobbling of the ducks," (I suppose the turkeys quacked), "the litter of bags and boxes, the rolling of barrels, the shouts of sailors, the anxious faces of men and women about to try a new world---imagine this, and the reader has a picture of the *Welcome* as she lay off Deal on the first day of September 1682, waiting the arrival of Gov. Penn."

Dobree wrote that the *Welcome* was "squeally and smelly with livestock."

Now what did they face? Atlantic passage in those days was in itself a real peril.

Pirates were not unknown, but they were more active on the southern route where the Spanish ships and towns were a rich harvest for Sir Henry Morgan and his co-pirates.

A famous New England minister, alerted his parishioners on the approaching heretic Penn, recommended his capture, and the seizure of his belongings.

But the real dangers confronting this little band were wind, the sea, and worst of all, disease.

The winds were not only dangerous by reason of their fury, but of their direction, as well. The square-rigged *Welcome* could not sail into the wind like our present fore and aft-rigged sailing craft. One of the vessels that left at the same time was blown off her course into the West Indies.

What were the *accommodations* for these travelers, if such they could be called?

The Captain's cabin was usually the most luxurious, and just under the poop deck. Below that, aft, were the great cabin, and probably four—at most, six—cabins. Forward was the galley, and below that, the crews' quarters.

Excepting for those fortunate enough to secure a cabin, the remaining passengers, at least 70 in number, had to sleep in the holds. They are the two decks below the Boarding deck, around the hatch. No doubt they slept on their own mattresses or blankets. I was unable to find any evidence of bunks or hammocks in any of the contemporary drawings.

The *Mayflower* rebuilders say that hammocks were unknown at the time, which may be true on passenger vessels, but we recall in "Songs of the Sea" by Henry Newbold:

"Drake he's in his hammock and a thousand miles below,
Swung atween the round shot in Nombre Dios Bay
And dreaming all the time of Plymouth Hoe."

From the meager fare charged by the *Welcome*, I have wondered whether the passengers supplied their own food. There is a record of the food taken on board another vessel by a minister that same year. Six pounds for meals alone would mean less than 10c per meal. Penn was not in a position to help much, as he was on the verge of bankruptcy.

I have taken several trips up the Labrador Coast with fishermen on the little mailboat *Kyle*. The fishermen sleep on the floor of the holds in their blankets as most of the *Welcome* passengers must have done. They furnish their own food for the journey and go back to the galley for hot water to make their tea. Their food is eaten cold.

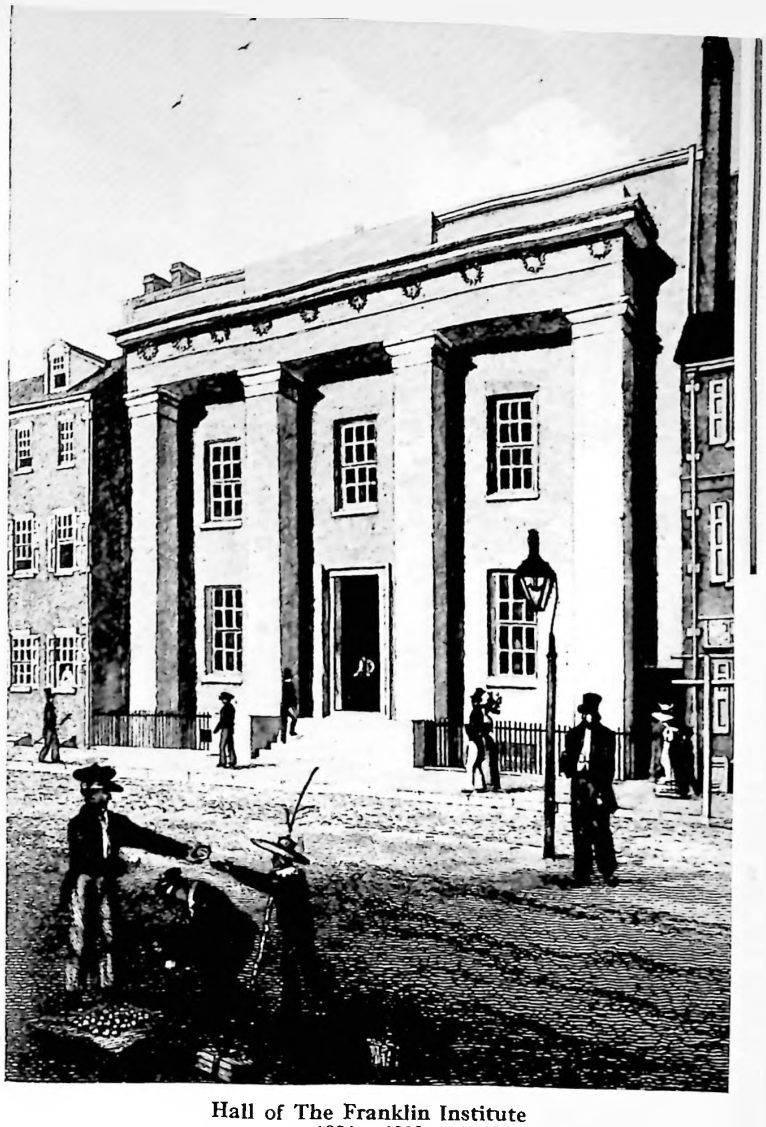
On one trip a fisherman had with him his eight year old boy, whom I found early each morning on deck with a crooked stick, which he hid behind his back when I appeared. I watched and saw him go to the crates of chickens aboard. He found two or three

(Continued on page 20)

Pennsylvania Student Members of the Franklin Institute A Century Ago

By

Joseph Samuel Hepburn



Hall of The Franklin Institute
1826—1933
15 South Seventh Street
(Now the Atwater Kent Museum)

At THE present time The Franklin Institute has a class of Student Members (full-time students in elementary school, high school, or college age 8–25 years) who, for a nominal sum, are granted certain privileges including, after the age of 14 years, library privileges. This paper concerns a somewhat similar group in the middle of the last century.

On April 21, 1847 the Board of Managers of The Franklin Institute adopted a resolution which admitted members of the Alumni Association of the Philadelphia Central High School to all the privileges of the Institute, except voting at meetings of the Institute or its Committees, until they attained the age of 21 years. On September 14, 1847 by resolution of the Board, provision was made for use of the library of the Institute by such members.

On June 21, 1848, on motion of John Fries Frazer, who had graduated in arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 1830, was its professor of natural philosophy and chemistry 1844–1872, its vice-provost 1855–1868, and acting provost 1859–1860, the Board of Managers of The Franklin Institute "Resolved that the privileges now granted to the Alumni of the Philadelphia High School be extended to the Graduates of the Department of Arts of the University of Pennsylvania under the same regulations and restrictions".

The Archives of The Franklin Institute contain a letter, dated September 23, 1848, and signed by George Allen (LL.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1868) as secretary of the faculty of the department of arts "to return their thanks" to the Board of Managers of the Institute for this "liberal action."

The Archives of the Institute also contain a book in which are inscribed the text of the cited resolutions, and a pledge "to comply with all the By-Laws, rules & regulations ——————whilst we hold our privileges according to the above resolutions."

This pledge is followed by the signatures of 35 men. For each man is recorded in columnar form: Serial number, signature (usually with date), age (in years on a given date), profession chosen, and residence. The signers, arranged alphabetically, with their full names and respective university classes, are given below. The letters C, M, and L after the year of graduation signify respectively College (Arts), Medicine, and Law. Those who were elected members of The Franklin Institute or fellows of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia are indicated respectively by the letters F or P and the year of such election.

Joseph Samuel Hepburn, A.M., M.S., Ph.D., M.D., Chem. D.
Archives Researcher, The Franklin Institute
President, City History Society of Philadelphia
Historian, The Associated Alumni of the Central High School of Philadelphia
Professor of Chemistry and Research Associate in Gastroenterology, Emeritus, The Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Philadelphia

THE PASSING PARADE

By Mrs. A. H. Hammerstrom

MY SUBJECT is really the Benefit Shop, but I'm calling this paper "The Passing Parade" with apologies to John Nesbitt. Those of you who hear his broadcasts by the same name will understand.

Many people, even in Germantown, know nothing of the Benefit Shop. It was started more than twenty-five years ago on East Chelten Avenue by a group of civic minded women who realized the desperate straits of the Germantown Hospital. It was heavily mortgaged, poorly equipped in every way, surgical instruments were needed, rooms lacked furniture; in fact, there was a dire need in every department.

It was then that these fine Germantown women put their shoulders to the wheel, and this Benefit Shop, which is really a glorified rummage sale, was started.

Homes were opened for card parties and entertainments, and the fee for entrance was a good sized bundle of desirable clothing or anything that would sell. In this way, the empty shelves were soon filled and have been kept filled all through the years.

The experiment was a success from the beginning; and believe it or not, the sales were from $8,000.00 to $10,000.00 per year. The hospital debt was soon paid and further equipment of the hospital taken over.

I was a newcomer here when I was asked to assist, and I was more than glad. First, because it gave me something to do and outside contacts. Second, I felt it was a very worthy charity, and you know what a righteous feeling it gives one when doing something helpful for humanity. Now I realize I have a weekly entertainment staged for my benefit, and I do so often *get* far more than I give. One of my friends said, "It must be a terribly dirty and sordid place." I replied, "Not at all, if you like people and studying types and their reactions, *which I do.*"

The shop is open from 9-30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M., six days a week, and has been all these years. It is a very great benefit, I now realize, not alone to the hospital, but to all who come there, black and white, rich and poor. Yes, I do mean rich, for they come for special things not easily found elsewhere, for it has been said, "We've had everything but an elephant!"

I have in mind a very well-dressed, distinguished looking lady who drove up with her chauffeur, a grandmother who came in search of full dress suits for her two young grandsons, who were to be in high school plays. Did we have such things? Did we? Indeed we did! Not alone suits, but the silk hats, the shirts, studs and cuff links, the dress ties and the suspenders, white kid gloves, the canes. Yes, even the light gray spats of years ago, and a more delighted grandmother you never saw. But that wasn't all. She spied some lovely ostrich feathers (of which we have dozens), and knowing there were girls in the play, she bought some gorgeous plumes, a lovely feather fan and some artificial flowers, in all about $15.00 worth. Then she called in the chauffeur and loaded up the car.



I should have told you that there are about sixty women who work there in shifts. We all *give* our time and effort. No one is paid but the manager, and hers is a *real* job. We buy nothing. Everything is donated and much of it comes from the homes of the well-to-do of Germantown and Chestnut Hill, so all sales are a gain. Last year the head surgeon of the hospital was asked what he needed most and he replied, "Oh, a new operating table, but it will cost you money!" It did—$815.00. Not only did we give the table, but we sent the old one to a needy hospital in Pennsylvania.

We also pay the salary of the Occupational Therapy Director.

The room where the electrical treatments were given was just the end of a side porch closed off—cold in winter and hot in summer. The patient was always comfortable as he was having the treatments, but the poor nurses were frozen. This room has recently been properly rebuilt, painted and plastered, and comfy for all.

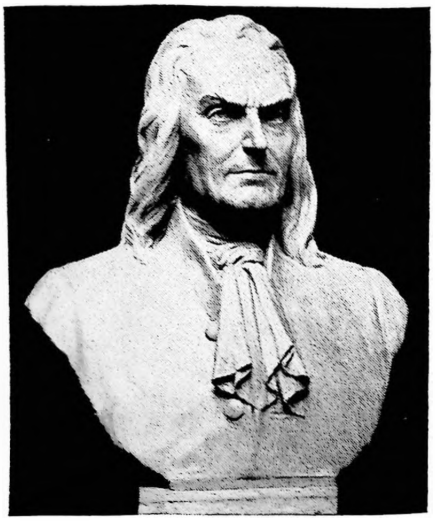
I recall meeting the wife of a German chemist who came to this country after the first war, with ample means at that time, as her husband had a chain of drug stores in Germany. He began to see the "handwriting on the wall" and he sent her and the young boys over here. He began to dispose of his property, sending the money here to her. Soon the gestapo began to spy on him and he realized he would have to leave everything and get away himself if possible. In the meantime, she had given the boys every educational advantage and now all three are fighting in our army. The husband got here about the time of the depression and simply could not find work. Then the Benefit Shop was a God-send to them. Now the husband is back in his profession and instead of buying for themselves, they bring in refugees and outfit them with the necessary clothing.

(Continued on page 16)

Tour of Histo

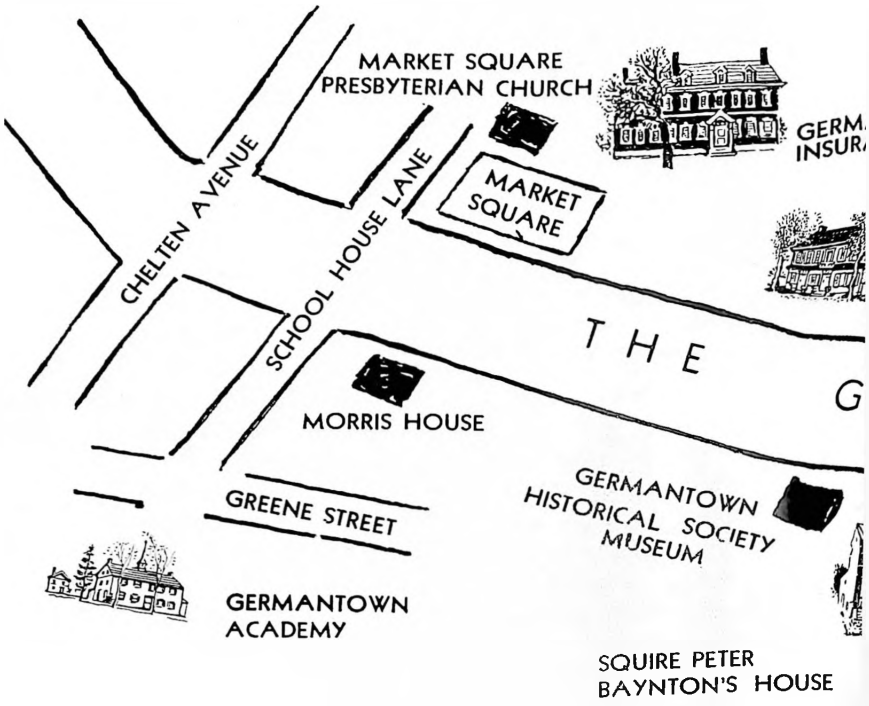
CONDUCTED BY THE GERM

SATURDAY, MAY 17,



When Francis Daniel Pastorious brought his people here in 1683, "The Great Road" already was a "well trod path," beaten through wilderness by the bare feet of Indians.

In Colonial days, it was the main route from Philadelphia to the Northwest.



GERMANTOWN ACADEMY, one block west of Germantown Ave., on School House Lane, is in its 199th year of continuous service. Founded in 1760, it is a living bridge from the present to Germantown's historic past. While Washington and his family occupied Morris House, the president's nephew was a pupil there. During the Revolution, it was used as a hospital, and during the 1798 yellow fever epidemic housed the Bank of North America and of Pennsylvania.

MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, next door to the Fire Insurance Co., is the third church edifice to occupy this site. First was built by the German Reformed Church in 1733. The original bell, cast in 1725, still is preserved. So, also, are two choir angels that were placed on either side of an organ installed in 1762. President Washington worshipped here while he lived in Morris House. American and British soldiers are buried in the graveyard at the rear. Descriptive tablet was placed on the wall by Germantown Historical Society.

GERMANTOWN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY is headquartered in the attractive brick home directly across Market Square, corner of Church Lane. Tradition says that this mansion, dated 1794, was the first built of brick in Germantown. In 1795, it was leased by the Bank of the United States. Storage vaults still remain in the cellar. It has been authentically restored by the present owner. The older guest house in the courtyard also has been restored and decorated in period furniture.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM occupies the **CONYNGHAM-HACKER HOUSE** next door (5214). Built shortly before the Revolution, it was occupied by the British in October, 1777. In 1927, it was presented to the Historical Society. Last year, it was decorated and rearranged to show off to best advantage the period rooms and exhibits of historic flags, guns, costumes and toys.

MORRIS HOUSE, handsome stone home set in a lovely garden at 5442 Germantown Ave., was completed in 1772—to begin an historically rich life. It was here victorious Lord Howe settled following the Battle of Germantown. And here President George Washington took refuge from the yellow fever raging in Philadelphia, the nation's capital in 1793. He also spent a six-week vacation here with his family in 1794. Long owned by the Perot-Morris families, Morris House was given to the nation in 1948. Under the jurisdiction of the Independence National Historical Park, it is maintained by Germantown Historical Society.

Hosts and Hostesses in Charge

STENTON—Mrs. William T. Hord

LOUDOUN—Mrs. Edwin C. Broome

MEHL HOUSE—Mrs. John R. Minehart

OTTINGER HOUSE—Mrs. Mary A. Hayden

LOWER BURIAL GROUND—Nathan Marple, 2nd, and Richard Morrison

"SQUIRE" PETER BAYNTON HOUSE—Mrs. Francis Shunk Brown, 3rd.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM—Mrs. E. Boggs Prettyman

GRUMBLETHORPE—Mrs. E. Florens Rivinus

MORRIS HOUSE—Mrs. Robeson Lea Perot

GERMANTOWN FIRE INSURANCE CO.—Mrs. Arthur O. Rosenlund

MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Miss Helen Gillingham

GERMANTOWN ACADEMY—Donald N. Miller

Germantown

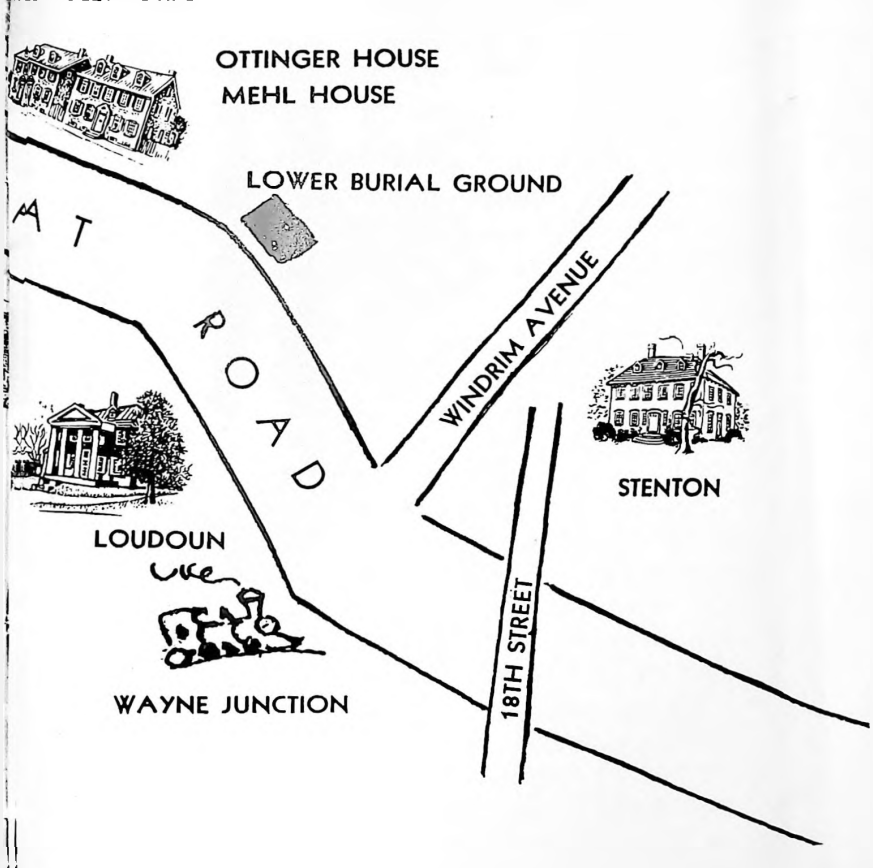
WN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

-:- 1 to 5:30 P.M.

Anniversary Edition

To celebrate Germantown's 275th birthday, special features will be presented at various tour stops and along "The Great Road."

FIRE



HISTORIC TOUR COMMITTEE

FRANK J. OLLINGER, *Chairman*
ROBERT M. ATKINSON, *Vice-chairman*
MRS. ARTHUR E. WEIL, *Secretary*
MRS. EDMUND A. CRENSHAW, JR., *Ticket Chairman*
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CAPTAIN EDMUND A. CRENSHAW, Jr.
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MRS. J. WYNN QUIGLEY
MRS. J. BRADFORD RITTER AND HER COSTUME COMMITTEE
MRS. THURLOW N. STAPLES
DR. GORDON W. VENABLE
A. THOMAS VON TROTT
MRS. HENRY F. WIREMAN
MRS. MARGARET BACON BOSTWICK

"SQUIRE" PETER BAYNTON HOUSE, 5208 Germantown Ave., recently (1956) was purchased by the Germantown Historical Society as a library and place to maintain its valuable collections of old books, manuscripts, newspapers and pictures.

GRUMBLETHORPE, across the avenue at 5267, was built in 1744 by John Wister, Philadelphia merchant, as a summer retreat. General Agnew was carried here to die when he was wounded in the Battle of Germantown. His blood stains still remain on the floor. The house will be open to the public for the first time since its restoration. In the early 19th century, original field stone was covered with stucco, a little balcony removed from the second floor above the front door. These changes have been corrected. It is maintained as a museum by the Landmark Society of Philadelphia.

LOWER BURIAL GROUND (HOOD'S CEMETARY), on the northeast corner of Germantown Ave. and Logan St., was presented to Germantown in 1693 by Jan Streepers. Among notable persons buried here are Christian Frederick Post, Moravian missionary to the Indians, and General Agnew and Colonel Bird, British officers killed in the Battle of Germantown. The marble wall was erected in 1850.

LOUDOUN, stately atop the summit of Neglee's Hill (4650 Germantown Ave.), is a fine example of the Federal era. Tall Grecian columns are surrounded by trees and a broad lawn sweeping to steep terraces. It was built about 1801 by Thomas Armat, Philadelphia merchant, for his only son, Thomas Wright Armat. The name was derived from the Virginia county where the elder Armat settled on arriving here from England. The Society of Colonial Dames maintains the city-owned building as a museum.

MEHL HOUSE and **OTTINGER HOUSE,** at 4821 and 4825 Germantown Ave., are typical substantial homes of the 18th Century. The home of Christopher Ottinger, coachmaker and Revolutionary veteran, dates from the 1780's. The Mehl homestead was built in the 1760's. Soldiers killed in the Battle of Germantown are said to be buried at its gateway. The barn at the back now houses the Germantown Theatre Guild, founded by Violet Minehart (Mrs. John R.), who lives in Mehl House.

STENTON: 18th and Courtland Sts., is one of Philadelphia's loveliest early country mansions. It was built between 1728 and 1734 by James Logan, for many years secretary of the Province of Pennsylvania and scholar of international note. A room extending across the entire second floor front housed Logan's famous library, now owned by the Library Company of Philadelphia. During the Revolution, the house served as temporary headquarters for both Washington and Howe. City-owned, it is maintained as a museum by the National Society of Colonial Dames of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Buy Tickets Now
"Vernon," Vernon Park
GE 8-9044
Tickets may be purchased also at each house
Adults $1.50 Children $.75
Proceeds
Germantown Historical Society
Germantown Community Council

The Passing Parade

(Continued from page 13)

My first funny experience was the Irish woman who came in to buy a waffle iron. Did we have 'em? Yes, indeed! "I stirred up me waffles and could not find me iron so I fed the children pan cakes, and when me man came home, I sid, 'You'll 'ave to eat pan cakes for I can't find me waffle iron." He said, "Oh, I gave that to the scrap collection."

After she had made her purchase, I said, "Well, you have a patriotic husband, but just the same it was a dirty Irish trick, I think."

How she laughed and said, "Lady, I've told him a-plenty already, but I'll sure tell him thot too!!"

Many artists come for art studies, vases and pottery for still life models, and we do a big business in picture frames. Just last week, we sold a huge old gilt frame for $5.00. Recently a mother came in looking for a frame for a birthday card sent by her son overseas. The card was his own drawing on an air mail sheet with very nicely lettered "Birthday Greetings", but before it reached her came the sad news of his death. While I scurried about to find a fitting frame, I had to take time out to wipe away my tears.

I recall a very well dressed young lady who came in and looked about a bit uncertainly, so I, the alert saleslady, stepped up to assist her as she began to look at dresses on display. There were two lovely gowns which she touched tenderly, almost lovingly, so I said, "Here are two unusually good looking dresses," and before I could say more, she said with a sigh, "How I hated to give them up," and quickly left the store. I stood there wondering with a lump in my throat.

Had life suddenly changed for her? Why did she have to give them away? Had there been a death? I'm still wondering.

We have an early morning customer usually waiting for us at the door, an old Italian woman, who has such "taking ways" that she has to be followed about the shop.

Another "regular" is the book man always looking for first editions and other prize publications that may have come to us. Also the French teacher and his wife come regularly, and when any French books are given, I always make a sale. He buys good pictures, too.

Another interesting customer is the Greek barber. At one time he came and bought for himself. Now he is doing very well and owns his home and automobile. He sends his wife and four children to the shore every year and now he too buys for refugees, brings them in and outfits them with shoes, suits, overcoats and hats, truly from head to foot.

One of my amusing sales was to a big colored woman who wanted a brown hat. "Ah has a new brown fur coat and ah wants a hat." We had the brown hat but not much on it, so I suggested a nice brown feather. "Oh, dey isn't wearin' fedders, is dey?" she asked. I assured her they were and that I had a hat with a feather. "Your is?" she said, almost won over I could see, so I quickly pinned on a brown plume. "Your is a sassiety lady, ain't you?" I assured her I was not, and she said, "Oh yes you is. All de ladies who works here is, and you is too. *Ah kin tell.*"

When there has been a death, when people move from some of these fine old homes into smaller apartments, we then fall heir to the most desirable things—furniture, linen, silver; china, books, and what not. Also many of the stores—Jones, Cherry's, Allen's, the Quality Shop—send us new things, but slightly shop worn. At one time from an old home we had two Victorian chairs which we sold for $18.00 each, two old brass student lamps, complete with the dark green globes and beautiful brass trimming, which sold for $45.00.

One interesting item was a splendid leather "something." No, it wasn't a rug, for it had two big ears on it, lined with an excellent soft piece of leather, but what was it? No one knew, but I would not give up. Finally, I discovered the "ears" were to put your feet in. It was an Alaskan robe to wear when you drove a dog team in the far north.

I wonder who bought it, and why?

Before I finish this "Parade", I want to tell you of the young colored mother who came in one Saturday morning with two little children, so clean and bright looking. At once she spied the Victrola marked $3.00 and she stopped right there. "Was it o.k.?" It was, and more than that, there were records inside.

Records! Oh joy, too good to be true! I saw at once my sale was made, but she wanted to hear with her very own ears what the machine would do, so I put on a record and she was entranced, and the kiddies too. When she paid for it, she said, "I don't know what we'll eat on over Sunday, but *I don't care!*"

We do not deliver, but that did not stop her. Away she went and was back in ten minutes with two more children, all simply beaming and bringing a good sized express wagon with them. I still could not see how we could load it, but she had ideas. I helped her drag it to the door, but then I was stumped. She stood patiently, looking at men passing by. Finally, the right one appeared, a working man (white) and she politely asked him if he could help her load the Victrola into her wagon. He very graciously picked it up and set it on the wagon. I shall never forget the picture of the happy little black children and mother going down the street with a real treasure, their very own.

So you can see how the world goes in and out of the Benefit Shop, and to me it *is* "The Passing Parade."

Mrs. Hammerstrom died in 1955 while living at the Presser Home. She had been living there since 1940 after retiring from teaching voice. During eight of those fifteen years she was very active as a volunteer worker at the Benefit Shop and is remembered by all who knew her for her vital interest in everything, and her warm and keen sense of humor.



LOWER BURIAL GROUND (Hood's Cemetery)

By William H. Shelly

ON THE East side of Germantown Avenue above Logan Street (4900 North) is located the Lower Burying Ground, also known as Hood's Cemetery. Here lie the remains of many of the early families of Germantown and their descendants. There is an old tombstone built in the corner of the wall with the inscription "Memendo Mory", with its emblems of mortality, a skull and cross-bones. It must be remembered in the old times Germans put a spell, not always a good one, upon every thing. The stone marks the Lower Burial Ground which originally was a half an acre, the gift of Jan Streepers of Holland. Subsequently more ground was added, so that now it has a front of one hundred and eighty feet on the avenue and a depth of three hundred and fifty.

General Agnew and Colonel Bird, English officers, who fell in the Battle of Germantown, were buried in this old ground side by side. They reposed in no marked grave, for half a century after their fall, John F. Watson, annalist, to mark the spot, piously placed a marble tombstone thereon, with the following inscription:—

"No more at War,
Gen. Agnew & Col. Bird,
British Officers,
Wounded in the Battle of Germantown."

In after years several relatives of General Agnew visited the grave. The remains of these officers are no longer there. It seems that secretly they were transferred to a family graveyard. It is possible that they were transferred to the Benneville family burial-ground at the corner of York Road and Green Lane, Branchtown. Curious stone will repay study. The oldest stone, Joseph Coulston, from far distant 1707, was discovered in the foundation of another. The inscription of it is:

Here
Lyeth the Body
Of Joseph Coviston
On Husband of
Margaret Coviston
And Son of Capt Thomas
Coviston, of Hartshorn,
In Darleyshire, in old
England, who departed
This Life Vpon
The first day of
February, 1707-0.
Aged 38 years
And 8 months.

The stone on which this is inscribed is talcose slate, of a very dark green color. The top is rounded, as is usual, and there is rudely cut border, in which, on each side, is the representation of a column surmounted by a capital, leaving the center of the circular part of the border to be adorned with an emblem of mortality, an hour-glass. Another stone is of the same material, and bears the name of Samuel, a son of Joseph and Mary Coulston, who was "aged six weeck."

Post, the Moravian Missionary, was buried here in 1785, and has his tombstone near the gateway, to the right. To this pious man, Christian Frederick Post, is largely owing one of the mightiest changes in the destinies of this continent; the fall of the vast power of the old French Monarchy. Mr. Frank Cowan, the poet of southwestern Pennsylvania, tells the story in one of his songs, of which a verse is here given:

"The Head of Iron, from his couch,
Gave courage and command,
Which Washington, Bouquet, and Grant
Repeated to the band;
Till, hark! the Highlanders began
With their chieftain's words to swell
'To-night, I shall sup and drain my cup
In Fort Du Quesne-or Hell!!
But the Man of Prayer, and not of boast,
Had spoken first, in Frederick Post."

There is a stone over the remains of Captain Robert Lee, a native of Northumberland, in Great Britain, who died in 1798.

A tombstone in the Lower Burying Ground is supposed to mark the grave of Carl Benzelius or, as he was called, Charles Bensell. The stone is marked: "Dr. Charles Bensell, born the 11th of April, 1725. Died, March 17th, 1795.

Another grave is no doubt that of a son, Dr. Charles Bensell, b. 14th, August, 1752. (He was, no doubt, a son of Carl Bensell.)

Over the remains of Johannes Fry, who came from Germany and settled in Germantown at an early time, and died in 1765, was erected a rude gravestone, which bears the following singular inscription, singular because it contains a "play" upon his name:

"Hier ruhet in Gott Johannes Frey: Geb. den 20th Apl. 1698 Gest. den 11 Septem. 1765-Seines Alters 67 jahr 5 monat.

'Ich war der Frey, doch bin
Ich hier erst recht Frey warden.'

Lebt Sunder frey so konnst du auch in meinen orden."

Which may be rendered—

Live free from sin, then you be as I am, Free indeed. Johannes Fry was the grandfather of William K. Fry, who had a tinsmith's shop at the northeast corner of Germantown Road & Chelten Avenue. From it all the people of the village obtained their supplies in this line, and no complaint was ever heard. It is said that never since his death have they been able to purchase such excellent tinware as he sold.

Many years ago William Hood went from Germantown to the island of Cuba, and there he greatly prospered. He died in Paris in 1850, and was buried here, and by his will provided for the erection on the front of the ground of an appropriate wall. His nephew and heir, William H. Stewart, a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, living in Paris, carried out his uncle's intention by causing to be erected by William Struthers the imposing massive marble wall surmounted by a rich Balustrade, also of marble, which forms one of the most striking features of Germantown Avenue. Note the tablet placed by the Site and Reliv Society of Germantown in the front wall. The graveyard was presented to the borough of Germantown by Jan Streepers in 1693.

Some Little Known Burial Places In and Near Philadelphia

By Frank S. Stone

We are apt to think that we are too new a country to neglect the graves of our dead. We think that our vast cemeteries of the type of Laurel Hill in Philadelphia and our many well kept church yards are the resting places of practically all our departed.

We are prone to forget that in our country men died before churches were built, and churches too were often far away from the big scattered farms; then too, churches and church yards may fall into decay and final abandonment, and also there is occasionally a certain aloofness or eccentricity in some of us that may go so far as to prompt the selection of an oddly located grave.

We know, of course, that there are may private burial grounds in the South, but perhaps few of us realize what a number of little known and sometimes neglected burial places we have here, even in Philadelphia and the near vicinity. The location of many of them is picturesque and unusual and once the somewhat grisly interest is established, it is surprising what a thrill it gives the searcher after such things to find a prone head-stone and weed-grown mound in an unexpected place, particularly if the carving or inscription is old and quaint or of some historic interest.

On the north side of Spruce Street, between eighth and ninth streets, is the old Jewish Cemetery. The rare passer who halts long enough to peer through the grating of the gate, may see a refreshing bit of greenery in city's heart. Trees and bushes look over the high brick wall and the little enclosure is well kept up.

Dating from 1738, this is one of the oldest burial places in the city. On the monuments are carved the names of many histroic Jewish families of Colonial days. Here is the resting place of Rebecca Gratz, the original of Scott's Rebecca in "Ivanhoe." There have been no interments here for years.

Close at hand in the grounds of the Pennsylvania Hospital, is a solitary grave, that of Charles Nicholes, a benefactor of the hospital, who died in 1807, according to the monument. "His body is interred in compliance with his request in this place, and this monument is erected over him, by permission of the Managers of the hospital, in order to perpetuate his name, by one of his executors."

In the yard of another well known institution, the Academy of Natural Sciences, within a few years, the visitor who happened to glance from an upper window was astonished by the sight of several headstones in an end of the yard, a relic of a private burial place of the past.

In the quiet beauty of Bartram's Gardens, on a hill overlooking the river, is a humble grave—that of Bartram's slave who accompanied his master in a tour of the Southern States in search of peculiar plants. There is no lettering on the stone at the head of the small mound, but the old slave doubtless sleeps well

in the historic garden of his beloved master.

Near Wayne Junction is James Logan's wonderfully preserved "Stenton" with its beautiful box-hedged garden, and near at hand, the tiny wall enclosed burial place of the Logans. Trams thunder past Stenton and nearby are busy factories and closely built city streets where once were country fields, but providentially this spot of Colonial beauty has been saved.

Passing to the York Road near Branchtown, is the De Benneville grave yard on the northeast corner of York Road and Mill Street, a long narrow enclosure and nearby in the grounds of Dr. Charles Wharton Stork, beneath a rough stone about ten feet high, lay the victims of a Revolutionary tragedy—four American soldiers shot beside their camp-fire by the British in 1777. In the rear of "Cliveden" more Revolutionary soldiers are buried; killed in the battle of Germantown, their bodies were discovered when Johnson Street was opened and they are now buried under some shrubbery near the fence at the corner of Johnson and Morton Streets.

There is a tradition that another Revolutionary soldier, an English officer is interred close to the Stevenson Crother's tenant house on Paper Mill road near Chestnut Hill, a victim of the fierce skirmishing of late 1777 when Washington's army lay strongly entrenched on the White Marsh hills.

Not far from here in the Van Rensselaer place "Camp Hill," is a little family burial plot. There may be a number buried here, but one stone, however, survives, which is erected

"To the memory of
Abigail, the wife of
Nicholas Scull,
Who departed this life
the 25th of May 1753.
Age 65 years.

The ashes of the tender wife lies here,
The tender mother and the friend sincere.
Her mind each female ornament possest
And virtue reigned triumphant in her breast".

Not far from "Camp Hill" is Fair View Cemetery, the burial place of the Fitzwaters, a little walled-in plot at the top of a long hill, affording a wonderful view of a beautiful farming country. It is a strangely isolated spot and over the low, wall a pair of old horses viewed with mild curiosity the unusual apparition of a visitor.

"Is my team ploughing,
That I was used to drive
And hear the harness jingle
When I was man alive?"

Ay, the horses trample,
The harness jingles now,
No change though you lie under
The land you used to plough".

At first view, the monuments seem to be of recent date, but closer search discloses others broken and half obliterated bearing initials and dates from 1795 to 1813.

At Weldon Village, next to a public school, is a comparatively modern family burial place, a picture of desolation, the iron fence broken and grass and weeds hiding the fallen stones.

A similar scene of ruin was presented until recent years by the small abandoned grave yard of the old Union Church, Chestnut Hill. This burial place was situated near the end of West Gravers Lane, but the graves are gone now and the place built over.

A far different aspect is presented by the private cemetery of the Yeakel and Heydrick families on the Biddle Estate, Stenton Avenue, Chestnut Hill. This little walled enclosure is neatly kept. Some of the inscriptions are in German. Many graves of very early date are simply marked with field stones, rough and uninscribed. There are beautiful views from the surrounding rolling hills and a dense little forest comes close up to the wall on one side.

In 1743 Christopher Yeakel built the log cabin which stood until about 1900 at Germantown Avenue and Mermaid Lane. It is much to be regretted, that this little dwelling, the last of its kind, was destroyed, being vacant at the time, by Vandals for fire wood.

Last year saw the passing of the historic Yeakel-Schultz house on Germantown Avenue above Evergreen. This was one of the Revolutionary relics of Chestnut Hill. The British are said to have badly wrecked the house and to have taken everything they could eat and drink.

To use the optimistic language of the real estate column, "the site has been improved by a filling station."

The Yeakels and Heydricks were followers of Casper Schwenkfeld. The majority of the Schwenkfelders settled in Towamencin, Worcester, Skippack and Lower Salford townships, Montgomery County. A fascinating memorial of this sect is the old church at Kulpsville, with its quaint German inscriptions.

There is surely no older burying place in Pennsylvania than the Williamson private burying ground in Bensalem Township, Bucks County, about three miles from Bristol, near the Neshaminy creek.

Dunck Williames (afterwards Williamson) a Scotchman, arrived in New England about 1660. In 1667 he settled on the Delaware River below what is now Trenton and in 1676 he and Francis Walker were granted 450 acres on the Neshaminy. Additional land was acquired in 1679. The land extended back to the Delaware River and Williamson established a ferry across to New Jersey which still bears his name (Dunks Ferry). In 1678 Williamson served on the jury at Upland Court which is said to be the first jury empanelled in what afterwards became Pennsylvania.

(Continued on page 26)

The *Welcome's* Journey

(Continued from page 10)

eggs each morning which he extracted from the crates with his crooked stick, and hurried to the galley where the cook boiled them, so at least one fisherman and his son had eggs for breakfast. Let us trust that the *Welcome's* gobbling ducks were equally cooperative.

Having seen these hardy fishermen tossed around on their improvised beds for a week, I can appreciate what our ancestors, who were accustomed to comforts, must have suffered during those tragic two months, especially on a bark that tossed and rolled with every sea. Captain Villiers, who sailed the *Mayflower Second* across, when asked how she rode the seas, said: " 'Orrible, my boy, 'orrible."

But this discomfort was nothing compared with disease.

One passenger came aboard at Deal with incipient smallpox, the horrible spotted fever that had already claimed 70,000 of London's residents.

For the first few days all was well, save for the discomforts and probably sea sickness, which these passengers from the inland must have suffered, but then smallpox broke out, with all the fury of a plague. Dr. Wynne was the only physician on board, and he without anything to combat this dreaded disease. In fact, there was little that could be done even on land in those days, as is shown by the fact that from 1683 to 1723 one-fourteenth of London's population died of smallpox, including Queen Mary herself, who died December 28, 1694.

For two weeks there were one or two deaths each day. Burials at sea were an every-day occurrence, until 31, or approximately one-third of the passengers died and went to a watery grave, while The Goode Shippe *Welcome* sailed on. Thomas Fitzwater lost his wife and two of his four children.

What few records we have indicate that the thirty-one who died were all passengers, but it is possible some were sailors. It is hardly likely that in such close quarters all the crew escaped.

It is difficult to understand why all did not perish from such a highly contagious disease.

No doubt some of the passengers had already been afflicted and were thus immune.

William Penn himself was immune, for George Fox wrote on March 25, 1677: "W. Penn when but 3 years ould so lost his hairs by ye small pox yt he wore them long, etc."

Richard Townsend, one of the passengers, in giving an account of the voyage said: "The good conversation of Wm. Penn was very advantageous to all the company. His singular care was manifested in contributing to the necessities of many who were sick of the smallpox then on board, of which about thirty died."

Dixon wrote: "By day and night Penn sat in the cabins of the infected persons, speaking words of comfort to all, giving medicines to such as needed them, and affording the consolation of religion to the dying."

The statement that Penn visited the afflicted in their cabins, indicates that some isolation was accomplished by moving the sufferers into the few cabins.

Burials at sea are tragic affairs—the deceased was wrapped in either a sheet or a blanket with weights of some kind—on war vessels, round shot was used—and lowered into the sea. Since this was an almost daily occurrence on the *Welcome*, we have tried to picture on the model such an episode. Owing to the contagious character of the disease, it is doubtful if many but the immune attended the services. The model is shown under sail during the services which may not be accurate, as the sails were usually blanked during burials. However, the *Welcome* reached the Delaware Bay from Deal in less than two months, so could not have delayed long for each of the 31 burials. The *Mayflower First* took 67 days for the much shorter journey.

It is probable that the disease burned itself out during the first six weeks, for there is no record of the disease when they arrived in America.

We can imagine the relief when the last sufferer either recovered or was lowered into the sea. We trust that the last weeks of the journey afforded some relief and relaxation. But there is no log or record, so we can only surmise.

As they neared the Delaware Capes, a child was born to Evan and Jean Oliver of Wales, and another was born in the Delaware to Richard and Anne Townsend.

In a letter to the Lords of Trade and Plantations, Penn referred to his arrival in America as October 24, 1682.

Fischer wrote: "On the 24th of Oct. he (Penn) was within the Capes of Delaware . . . three more days were required for the *Welcome* to beat up the river to New Castle. On the 29th of the month, he sailed still farther up the river to Upland."

"The *Welcome* proceeded to Upland, or Chester, as it is now called, where Penn arranged for the officials and principal citizens to meet him in council on November 2nd at New Castle. Ten officials, including Deputy-Governor Markham, were present, and about 120 citizens."

"From New Castle he went up the river to Chester again where the ship anchored and Penn proceeded thence to the site of Philadelphia 'in a six-oared barge.' His first landing was at a spot cleared by Markham the year before. Here a log tavern had been built, which is known as the Sign of the Blue Anchor." This tavern was on Dock Street.

Thus ended the voyage.

There were many other pilgrimages to this country at the time, but the group who came with Penn had one distinction, they believed that when the Lord said: "Thou shalt not kill" He meant it. What a different world we would have today if their Gospel had won mankind.

Serious Threat to the Wonderful Wissahickon Valley

By Marion M. Rivinus



The Department of Streets plans to cut away the Point of Rocks near Ridge Avenue and the Reading Railroad tracks at the entrance to the Wissahickon Drive.

This is NOT where the real bottle neck occurs, which is by Gustine Lake and as one approaches Ridge Avenue. BEFORE passing the Point of Rocks. This is just an insidious beginning to blast the most unique gorge in the United States into a super highway.

Stealing an irreplaceable heritage from the Public. The Wissahickon Valley is so exceptional it is listed in the Baedeker guide books as "The Little Switzerland of America." Write to your Councilman or Hon. James H. T. Tate, President City Council, City Hall, Philadelphia 7 protesting such inexcusable vandalism before it is too late.

One blast of dynamite and the beautiful Wissahickon Valley is doomed.

Everyone knows that Fairmount Park is without a peer in America. The unique gorge of the Wissahickon is its most beautiful section. Near the mouth of the creek has stood for untold centuries a Point of Rock that forms an imposing entrance to the valley. The Department of Streets wants to cut away over 100 feet of that rock to eliminate a curve and widen what is now a Park Drive into a super highway. This might become a precedent far more dangerous than would at first appear. Other sharp curves and points of rock farther up the creek will be threatened with removal in order to develop a race-course for automobiles!

If the beauty and charm of the Wissahickon are to be perpetuated as the last remaining large natural area in the city, the plan to destroy the Point of Rock must be thwarted.

SHOOMAC PARK . . .

Shoomac Park, a colonial mansion house, at the head of Wissahickon Valley, commands an important crossroads. Traffic has been flowing past it for more than 250 years, bringing people and goods into Philadelphia and siphoning them out again to Germantown and Reading or across the Schuylkill to the Conestoga Road and Chester County. Here, where the Wissahickon and the Schuylkill meet, The Robesons began to operate a grist mill in 1690. A hundred years later it was still in business, grinding grain from Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania for Philadelphia merchants to export to Europe and the West Indies. When Philadelphia became an industrial city, Shoomac Park was sold to John and Joseph Dobson, carpetmakers. Instead of flour, the mill now produced textiles, reflecting through its new product the City's changing business activity.

During the Revolution, Shoomac Park was a guidepost for Armstrong's wing of Washington's army marching to attack the British at Germantown. The old house is still a landmark for travelers along the Ridge Road. Shoomac Park, although disfigured by many changes, is basically sound. Restored, it could again command the entrance to the Wissahickon Valley and serve as a reminder of the commercial and industrial growth of Philadelphia, and as a monument to a memorable battle of the Revolutionary War.

Should this historic mansion be destroyed in order to provide an unnecessary ramp to Ridge Avenue?

SPONSORS

The Friends of the Wissahickon
The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks
The Women's City Club of Philadelphia
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The Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution
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The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
The Pennsylvania Society of New England Women
Chestnut Hill Development Group
The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Recent Accessions To Our Library

(1) Biography of Francis D. Pastorius by Learned, and a map of the Wissahickon. Gifts of Robert H. Wass, Jr.

(2) "The Golden Door," the Life of Katherine Drexel by Katherine Burton. Gift of Roland L. Howe.

(3) A packet of newspaper clippings of Germantown history. Gift of Norman Garret.

(4) Eight scrap books of newspaper clippings from the Estate of George P. Darrow.

(5) A genealogical letter on the Ellis and Hendrickson families by Charles Ellis Moreau. Gift of the author.

(6) Ancestry of the John Franklin Eisenhart family by Willis Wolf Eisenhart. Gift of the author.

(7) A Philadelphia Story 1752–1952—The Philadelphia Contributionship by Nicholas B. Wainwright. Gift of the publishers.

(8) Genealogical Tree of the Lippincott Family by Charles Lippincott 1880. Gift of Mrs. Emily Lippincott Webster.

(9) Pennsylvania German Hans Segen (House Blessing) Fractur Schrift by Henry Weiss, 1791. From Schwenfelder Historical Society, Pennsburg, Pa.

(10) Proceedings of the Great Council of Pennsylvania of the Improved Order of the Red Men. 1870. Gift of Carol H. Deshon.

(11) Receipt of payment for share of membership in Germantown Swimming and Skating Park Association, by Joshua F. Jones, Treasurer, to John Roberts. 1866. Donor unidentified.

(12) Copies of Christopher Dock, Patriotic Gingerbread Baker by William Ward Condit, The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 1957. Gift of Managers of the Ludwick Institute.

(13) Two manuscripts of meeting at Harmony School Chestnut Hill about 1840. Also miscellaneous school books, teachers certificates, legal notices and election certificates, Chestnut Hill & Roxborough. Gift of Carol H. Deshon.

(14) History of Philadelphia, Scharf & Westcott, 1884. 3 Vols. and Century After, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. 1875. Gift of Mrs. Stephen Warren Hartwell.

MARKET SQUARE CHURCH

By Townsend Ward

Gtn. Road and its Associations—Pa. Magazine vol. VI p. 276

THE CHURCH on Market Square, now Presbyterian, occupies the site obtained in 1732 by the "High Dutch Reformed Congregation." They erected their building in 1733, and in 1762 they took out the rear end and built an addition which doubled its former capacity. In its steeple hung a bell which came here at an early time, and which called the people to their prayers for more than seventy years. When the enlarged stone church was taken down, in 1838, to give place to the present structure of brick, the bell was bought by the late Charles J. Wister. In 1874, it was given by his son of the same name, to the church, on the condition that it should be well taken care of, and not suffered to be lost, destroyed, or sold. It was cast in 1725, and bears upon it an inscription in German, "Gott allein die Ehre,"—To God alone the Honour." Aged people, who had it from their fathers, say that the sound of the bell as it fell upon their ears distinctly syllabicated the words:

"Injun Jake, drove a stake."

The deep meaning of which is now lost, for in our times there is so much education that ancient lore is somewhat disregarded. Another announcement of the bell was:

"Beggar's town, is coming down."

This fortunately is remembered as heralding the tardy coming of those members who lived in the upper part of Germantown, which long had been called by that strange name. The old Dutch organ disappeared when the church did, in 1838, and nothing is left of it but the "Trumpet Angels in their golden glory," which as the simple-minded children thought, made the music that filled the church. These figures ornamenting the organ had been taken as relics by a member, John Minnick, and after a lapse of thirty-four years have been brought back to be preserved as objects of curious interest connected with the first church. In this church Count Zinzendorf preached his first sermon in America, on the 31st of December, 1741, and his last one, before his departure for Europe, on the 17th of June, 1742. The Moravians held a Synod there.

The steeple of the old church had many rifle bullets in it, shot there by the "Paxton Boys," when they aimed at the vane that surmounted it. This vane, a veritable "Weather-cock" made of sheet iron, yet bears the bullet marks of men who knew how to use their rifles. When the old church came down, the vane was secured by Mr. Charles J. Wister.

Excerpts from Yesterday in Elfreth's Alley

ALTHOUGH WILLIAM PENN had made precise plans for his fair, green, country town with streets wide spaced, his agents granted rights of way through the blocks. These entrances developed into alleys and courts. So Elfreth's Alley was begun. There were a great number of such alleys and courts in Old Philadelphia, among them the famous Franklin's Court, off High near Third, and Letitia's Court, named for Penn's daughter, off High at Second. They have all been partially or completely demolished. They are gone to give place to a new order. Should we not cherish and preserve this one which is left?

If we would visualize Elfreth's Alley in its primitive beginning, we must forget the many miles we have come through this modern metropolis. We must think of a tiny settlement surrounded by great forests of oak, maple, laurel and cedar broken by streams and ponds and woody wastes. The city then extended about four blocks back from the Delaware River where on High Street, now Market, stood a Duck Pond, Town Hall at Second and High Streets was the center. Broad and Market Streets, the site of City Hall to-day, was woodland still left to deer and wild turkeys. The town stretched from Spruce Street to Vine. Another pond or "puddle" was on Mulberry Street, now Arch, near Third. The Bank Meeting House was on Front Street just north of Arch. The Blue Anchor Inn, where William Penn landed, was at Dock Creek. Mink played around the wharves. Village sounds were punctuated by the song of birds, the bark of the fox, sometimes the howl of the wolf. It was a new country and men lived close and found near neighbors comforting.

Jeremiah Elfreth had come to Philadelphia about 1690, had acquired land near the Blue Anchor Inn and prospered there. He then built a large house on Second Street at Gilbert's Alley. His nephew, Henry Elfreth, married Sarah Gilbert, the oldest daughter of a wealthy merchant, John Gilbert who lived in the Alley, and had so gained possession of property there. Gradually the street took on the name of Elfreth. Later it was known as Cherry Street and recently changed back to Elfreth's Alley. Originally it was paved with cobblestones, likely taken from Dock Creek or Peg's Run close by. Some of these cobbles are still to be seen in Bladen's Court and in the nine foot alley beside Number 134. Rumors persist that the bricks in these houses were brought from England. Undoubtedly bricks were used as ballast on the small sailing boats that brought the colonists here. If some found their way into these houses, they are probably in those where red and black bricks are laid in Flemish or English bond manner. However, there were very few imported bricks and there were brick kilns in Burlington, an older settlement than Philadelphia, and Penn himself mentions "canoes built of one tree that fetch four tons of brick."

The Elfreth's Alley Association are kindly lending their aid to the gay scene of Open House Day in Germantown. They will appear in costume in some of the houses.

THINKS—I—TO—MYSELF

A Serio—Ludicro, Tragico * Comico
TALE;
Written by
THINKS I TO—MYSELF
WHO?
TWO VOLUMNS IN ONE
VOL. I
BOSTON
PUBLISHED BY J. P. Peaslee
steriotyped by the Boston
type and steriotype loundry

I WAS BORN of very honest, worthy, and respectable parents; at least I think so. They were as fully as much so as their neighbors: their circumstances were affluent; their rank in life conspicuous; their punctuality as to the discharge of all just debts, and regular payment of their trades-people, unexceptional.

They generally appeared to be regarded by all around them in a very respectable light, being in the habit of receiving and returning, according to the custom of the world, all the usual complements and civilities of visits, entertainments, etc. etc. & c. Divers personages, of all ranks and denominations, used occasionally resort to the house; some in carriages some on horse back, some on foot; some in a formal stiff ceremonious manner; some upon a footing of intimacy and equality; some upon special invitation; some quite unexpected. The house these people lived in was called Grumblethorpe.

The manner of making calls

In the country you must always visit in propria persona; that is you must actually go yourself to peoples houses; but in London if your servant goes for you, that is often just as well: or if instead of making your appearance in person, you honor your acquaintance with your name only on a card of a certain dementions, it is no affront, and thinks I to myself as agreeable to all parties—This is a noble convenience, and cuts off a world of disquietude and trouble.

It is no uncommon case in London for a servant to know better than a Lady's own self whom she is acquainted with; and many instances occur, I believe, in which the whole business of visiting passes no further than between the footmen of different families, who, having committed to them the entire management of the transfer and exchange of cards, conduct the matter with an adroitness that does them infinite credit, and no doubt their mistress too.

The Twelfth Annual Wissahickon Valley Horse Show

(Continued from page 6)

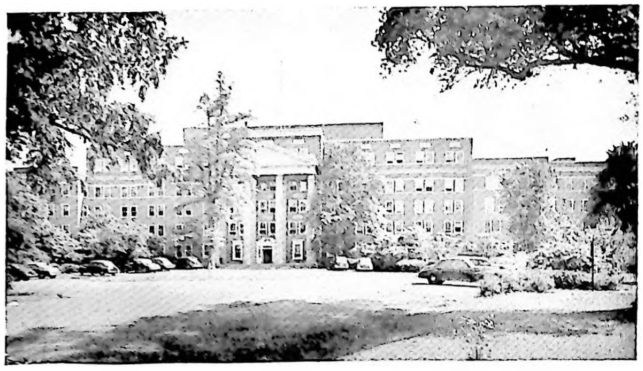
Chairman as well as the Chairman for the Optimist Club of Germantown, with Herman G. Klein, a Director of the Club, as his Co-Chairman. Mrs. Stephen Haas will be the Chairman for the Woman's Medical College Committee, with Mrs. Lillias P. Griscom as Co-Chairman. Miss Louise C. Bolger is the Show's Secretary.

Some 30 events will be on the day's program for this year's Show, ranging from Children's Hunter Classes to Open Jumper Championships for adult riders. The show will have six divisions: Green Confirmation Hunters; Working Hunters, Open Jumper Division; Junior Amateur Division; Pony Hunter Division and a new class this year, Green Open Jumper Division. About 25 trophies and more than $1000.00 in prize money will be awarded to the winners, in addition to the ribbons.

One of the judges this year will be General Charles B. Lyman, of West Chester. Joseph S. Clark will again be Show Manager and John Heatlie will be the Ringmaster. The Horse Show Committee will include: Mr. Biago Arena, Mr. Arthur Bolger, Mr. Paul Collins, Mr. John Dempsey, Mr. W. W. Frazier, III, Mr. David I. Mattis, Mr. William Sowden, Mr. Fred Tecce, Mr. Jules Whanger, Mrs. George T. Moore and Mr. Thomas S. Hamilton, who will also act as the show's announcer.

The Woman's Medical College Committee will include, in addition to Mrs. Haas as Chairman and Mrs. Griscom as Co-Chairman, Mrs. L. Kraeer Ferguson, Mrs. John B. Kelly, Mrs. Lee Krauss, Mrs. Ralph C. Nash, Mrs. John Butler Prizer, Mrs. William H. Schumacher and Mrs. Sol Weinberg, as Vice-Chairmen. The Treasurers will be Mrs. Hartwig Kuhlenbeck and Mrs. William G. Leaman, Jr.; The Workshop Booth will be handled by Mrs. Arthur L. Caley and Mrs. Elmer L. Hirth. The Garden Mart will be under the direction of Mrs. Lee Krauss and Mrs. Carl F. Preuss. The Candy Corner will be handled by Mrs. George L. Davis, Jr. and Mrs. James B. Bonner. The Fashion Booth will be under the direction of Natalie Collett, Inc., and Miss Betty Gamage.

In addition, to Heckmann, Chairman, and Klein, Co-Chairman for the Optimist Club, the following members will serve: Charles Reinhart as the Treasurer; Gustave C. Fulleborn and Otto Glaser as Co-Chairmen of the Food and Refreshment Committee; Richard W. Cauffman and Howard Kuemmerle as Publicity Co-Chairmen; Jack Allen and Elmer Stackhouse as Co-Chairmen of the Grounds Committee, assisted by Stanley Dubroff; Fred L. Schuck is Chairman of the Parking Committee; Reinhart and Howard W. Sherry are in charge of the Printed Program and Dr. Morton Melman will be in charge of Program sales. The Trophy Committee is composed of William L. Tobin, D. Miles Tourison and C. R. Koelle, Jr. All of the remainder of the Optimist Club members are serving on committees in different capacities.



Women's Medical College, Abbottsford Avenue and Henry Road, which will receive part of the proceeds, toward a new Research wing

Half of the proceeds of the show go to the Optimist Club's "Boys' Work Fund," which sponsors many activities throughout the year, including an Oratorical Competition, Halloween Window Painting Contest, Halloween Party for local children, a Christmas Party for under-privileged children, "A Boy of the Year" award, the Guiding Youth Campaign, a helping hand to a local boy in the form of a scholarship Award in memory of Clyde A. Vogenitz, the club's late Secretary-Treasurer, and many other worthwhile activities.

The other half of the proceeds will go to the Woman's Medical College's Development Fund, to be used ultimately for a new Research Wing at the College.

The Wissahickon Valley Horse Show is a licensed member of the American Horse Shows Association, Inc., and the show is operated in accordance with its rules. Every person who participates in the show is responsible for a knowledge of and is subject to these rules. Spectators will also enjoy the show more if they, too, know these rules, which are prominently featured in the Horse Show Souvenir program, which is obtainable on the grounds the day of the show.

There will be many attractions for both young and old and there is plenty of room for parking on the grounds. The entrance is on Wissahickon Avenue at Mt. Airy Avenue. The show will start at 9 A.M., rain or shine, on Sunday, May 18th, and run all day.

Sometime during the day, WFIL radiomobile announcer will pay a visit to the grounds to broadcast a running account of the top events scheduled.

Notes on "Grumblethorpe"

(Continued from page 8)

windows, the product of 1806, which were wider and shorter in height than the original windows were replaced by correct ones and glazed with antique glass. The old style main entrance door, the Courting door to the west parlour, the pent roofs over the first story windows, with their hand-split shingles; and the balcony and doors to the second story hall became a reality again.

In exploring below the front pavement, part of the old outside cellarway with some of its original stone steps were found and were restored. Also several inches below the present cement pavement construction, around the old foundations of the old cellarway was found fragments of the original brick pavement of handmade bricks; this pavement was mentioned in the "John Wister's Memoirs." The old side cellarway built in 1806 has been removed. The stone stoops with their fixed wooden seats at the exterior doors were replaced as they were when the house was built. The stone which matched the old stonework was brought to the building in the rough and dressed by hand as was done in Colonial days.

All the additional hardware required, either antique hardware of the correct period was purchased where possible or replicas of same, made of Swedish iron, hand forged by fire, as fine hardware was made in the early eighteenth century. Some of the old hardware had to be repaired.

There had to be much invisible mending, that is, cutting out or piecing out of the face stonework to give it an unaltered look, and with the restoring of the wide, almost white pointing the street facade assumed the appearance as it was when the house was built in 1744. The brick pavement completed the picture.

Other things have been accomplished along with the restoration of the street portion of the main part of Grumblethorpe.

Repairs have been made to parts of the rear wing which are to remain as part of the complete restoration.

Some replastering has been done to parts of the main building. A new forced warm air heating plant has been installed, (invisible as possible,) in the front part of Grumblethorpe.

Also a complete system of electric wiring has been installed in the front part of the building.

Much is yet to be done, as funds are available, for the rear of the main part of the house, also it is proposed to restore the rear wing as it was in 1744. Also the out buildings, Tenant House and garden. When completed Grumblethorpe should add much to our Historic Germantown.

It is interesting to note, that adjacent to Grumblethorpe, on the south east, was a house and other buildings built in 1731 by Christopher Sower (1693–1758). He was one of the most remarkable men of the Colonies, and was a friend of John Wister who was an interested observer of Sower's activities. Sower was a preacher, tailor, farmer, apothecary, surgeon, botanist, clock and watch maker, bookbinder, optician, manufacturer of paper, printer, drew wire, and founded lead type and made most of the materials for the books he printed. In 1739, he issued the first almanac and in 1743, he printed the Bible in German, forty years prior to its appearance here in English. Christopher Sower Jr. carried on the printing business after his father's death.

Some facts are known of Sower's house and Printing establishment, the house had many characteristics of the early Germantown houses; stone faced, Dutch entrance door to central hall, with rooms on either side, each having two windows on the street front, a pent roof over the first story windows and door. It suffered the modernizing of the nineteenth century, for from a picture I have of 1859, shows the house with pent roof gone and the stone walls rough casted.

Christopher Sower Jr., died in 1784 and the property came into the possession of Charles J. Wister and later Dr. Owen Jones Wister and it was he who in 1860 demolished the Sower house to erect a modern house on its site.

Let us hope that someday, the old Sower house will be reconstructed to frame in, so to speak, the completed and happy picture with Grumblethorpe and the Tenant house.

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Little Known Burial Places

(Continued from page 19)

Duncan Williamson died in 1699 and was buried in the family burying ground, now a rather desolate weed-grown enclosure approached through fields and woods. There are many graves there, including a memorial to the founder of the family in America. Duncan's eldest son, William, however, was buried in the cemetery of Old Swede's, Philadelphia. He died on Christmas day 1721 and was interred close to the door of the church.

Probably many who pass along the historic Skippack Pike (whence Greene marched to the attack on Germantown and where Washington's veterans tramped in 1777 on their way from Whitemarsh to Valley Forge) have noticed not far from the Broad Axe Hotel and high above the road on the border of a large private estate, one of the oldest tombstones hereabouts. It is enclosed now by a neat little white picket fence, but not so many years ago, the site was an enormous corn field and the stone stood uninclosed and unprotected so it became marred by time and chipped by plows as the horses swered over-close in many spring time plowings. Yet, it is still a wonderful example of Colonial memorial sculpture with its grim cherub at the top and floral decorations along the sides.

The monument is of soapstone and is all that remains of the oldest private burying ground in Whitpain township. Tradition says that at one time there were fifty or more graves visible there. The inscription reads

"Here lyeth ye body of Ann, late wife of Thomas McCarty,
Who departed this life March 21 ye year of our Lord 1714–15.
Aged 57".

On the back of the stone is the following quaint inscription:

"Although my body lies in earth,
I wish my friends both joy and mirth.
Their interest prize
To live with Christ we all shall rise;
For as the Scripture text declares
That we shall rise; and if not heirs,
Then woe be to that mortal man
That in God's judgment cannot stand".

Ann McCarty was the daughter of Richard Whitpain. She and her brother Zachariah came to this country to take possession and get tenants for their father. Thomas McCarty, whom she married, bought the farm where she lies in 1704. He sold it in 1724.

On the road below this strangely placed grave, automobiles speed and overhead airplanes hum in the sky, but the dead woman sleeps unheedingly.

"Until God loosen over sea and land
The thunder of the trumpets of the night".

"1901"

By Karl T. Weger

THE YEAR 1901, besides being the first year of a new century, was also the prologue to a new era and the epilogue to an old one. Now that we can employ hindsight, it is very obvious that if those of us living at that time had had sufficient intelligence to understand the signs which were clearly displayed we would have been able to foretell and perhaps forestall many of the tragedies and disasters which followed.

Besides being the first year of the new century it proved also to be first in many other things. The very first day saw the first organized parade up Broad Street of the New Year's Shooters or Mummers.

The first month saw the birth of a new league in baseball to be known as the American League.

Another event made medical history in Philadelphia when for the first time spinal anesthesia was employed at the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital thus permitting a surgeon to saw off the leg of a patient who could hear the sawing but felt no pain.

Visitors to Atlantic City saw the inauguration of a new fad. Rollers chairs were used for the first time.

In May the first auto driver was arrested by Fairmount Park Guards for exceeding the speed limit. He was driving faster than seven miles per hour.

The same month saw the first increase in the cost of shaves and haircuts. The barbers' union insisted that the price for a shave must be ten cents and a haircut fifteen cents.

The Garrick Theatre opened for the first time. The handsome new playhouse on Chestnut Street just east of Broad contained all the latest improvements and had a seating capacity of 2,200. Richard Mansfield in "Monsieur Beaucaire" was the first attraction.

The new United States Mint at Sixteenth and Spring Garden Streets opened for business.

For the first time in human history, a wireless telegraph message is sent 1,700 miles across the Atlantic by Marconi, on December 15. Four days later another first was chalked up. The first steamship to cross the Atlantic ocean with steam generated by means of liquid fuel instead of coal arrived in Philadelphia. It was the British tanker Clam.

For the first time in this history of the sport, Cornell beat the University of Pennsylvania in a football game, 24–6.

The Germantown Historical Society deeply regrets the death of the following members and sends sympathy to their families. Miss Mabel H. Ambler, Mrs. David Halstead and Dr. Carl F. Haussman.

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