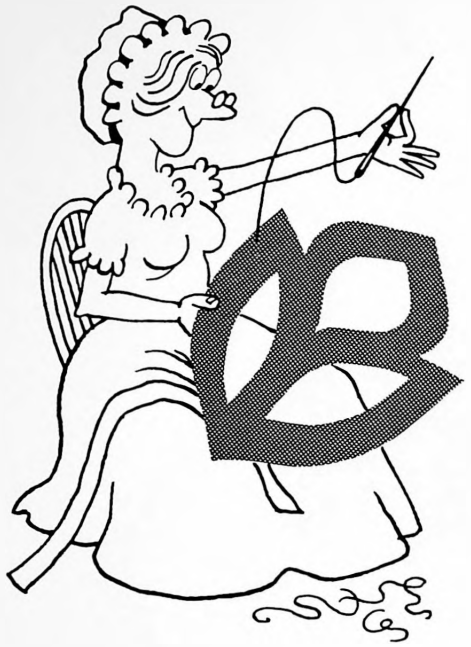
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See Story on Page 20

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 1 FORTY CENTS SPRING, 1969



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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Volume 21 | SPRING, 1969 | Number 1

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CHANGES IN EDITORIAL POLICY

The Germantowne Crier will be published as Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter issues. Mailing dates will be during the months of January, April, July, and October. We believe this new schedule will alleviate past troubles resulting from summer vacations and the overburdened, December post office.

The staff believes that conditions justify a slight increase in the price charged for the *Crier*. **Henceforth, individual copies will be sold for 50¢ each.** The subscription rate, for those who are not members of the Germantown Historical Society, will be **$2.00 per year.**

ART-TIQUE 69

Germantown's only annual, outdoor art exhibit and antique show and sale will be presented on Friday and Saturday, June 20-21, at the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, Greene and Tulpehocken Streets, Germantown. This is the second year for this event which last year presented a clothesline art exhibit and an outdoor antique show.

ART-TIQUE 69 is presented in cooperation with the Maxwell Mansion Committee of the Germantown Historical Society. The proceeds of the event will go toward the continuing restoration of the 1859 vintage manor.

The artistic success and the surprisingly good financial results of the first ART-TIQUE have encouraged the ART-TIQUE Committee to expand this year's presentation. Accordingly, the show will be extended to two days with additional art and antique exhibitors participating. It is hoped that ART-TIQUE will, eventually, expand to a seven-day arts festival of all art forms including music and the performing arts.

Last year's single day ART-TIQUE attracted 750 visitors who saw the work of 31 artists and wares displayed by twelve antique dealers. An exhibit of approximately 75 works was displayed in the rooms on the first floor of the mansion. Three demonstrations, "The Technique of Woodcut Printing," by John W. Hathaway, "The Making of Metal and Glass Sculpture," by Carolyn F. Armstrong, and "The Art of Print Making," by Mildred Dillon, attracted large groups of interested visitors. Two fascinating performances of Jean Williams' Germantown Ballet's "Hippie Dance," attracted large throngs on the grounds and along Greene Street where the second performance encouraged a major traffic tie-up. During ART-TIQUE 68's seven and one-half hours, a total of 47 paintings, prints, and sculpture were sold. Although no official tally was kept on antique sales, ART-TIQUE 68's flea market was quite busy and antique dealers came away pleasantly surprised with the amount of business transacted.

In addition to the art and antique shows, ART-TIQUE 69 will feature four demonstrations, two per day. Carolyn F. Armstrong and John W. Hathaway will again make presentations. O. K. Johnston, nationally recognized Germantown artist, will demonstrate his painting technique. Mr. Johnston has exhibited in one-man shows in Philadelphia and New York. He is A[illegible] Director at Gwynedd Mercy Academy at Springhous[e] Pa., and is best known for his paintings of many of Ge[r]mantown's prominent homes. Lisa Van Vlack, recentl[y] the subject of a feature in the *Sunday Bulletin,* will pr[e]sent a demonstration of pottery making. This demonstr[a]tion, the first of its kind in Germantown, requires e[x]tensive preparation and will be of several hours duratio[n]

Prizes will be awarded to exhibitors. Gate prizes w[ill] be awarded to visitors holding lucky tickets. Last ye[ar] The First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company [is]

Continued on page 29

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 16, 1969, 8:15 p.m.
St. Paul's Church Parish House
22 East Chestnut Hill Avenue
Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia
Meeting of the **Chestnut Hill Historical Society**
Mr. James Biddle, President of The National Tru[st] for Historic Preservation, will speak on "Histor[ic] Preservation Today."
Admission: Members of the Chestnut Hill Histor[i]cal Soc.—free. Non-members—50¢.
Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, May 17, 1969
Germantown Historical Society, Annual Spring To[ur] of Germantown Houses.
(Further details are given in this issue of *The Crier*.

Thursday, June 5, 1969, 7:30 p.m.
Germantown Historical Society Museum
5214 Germantown Avenue, Germantown.
Annual Garden Party, followed by a meeting in t[he] parish hall of Trinity-Lutheran Church.
The Hon. Martin Moynihan, the English Cons[ul] General for Philadelphia, will speak on: "Crossi[ng] the Alps—A Few Remarks on William Word[s]worth."

Friday and Saturday, June 20-21, 1969
Clothesline Art Exhibit and Antique Sale
Maxwell Mansion
Green and Tulpehocken Streets, Germantown.
(Further details are given in this issue of *The Crier*.

HISTORIC GERMANTOWN

FOUNDED 1691

Germantown Historic Tour
14 Colonial Homes and Gardens
Sponsored by
The Germantown Historical Society
Saturday, May 17, 1969
1 to 5 P.M.

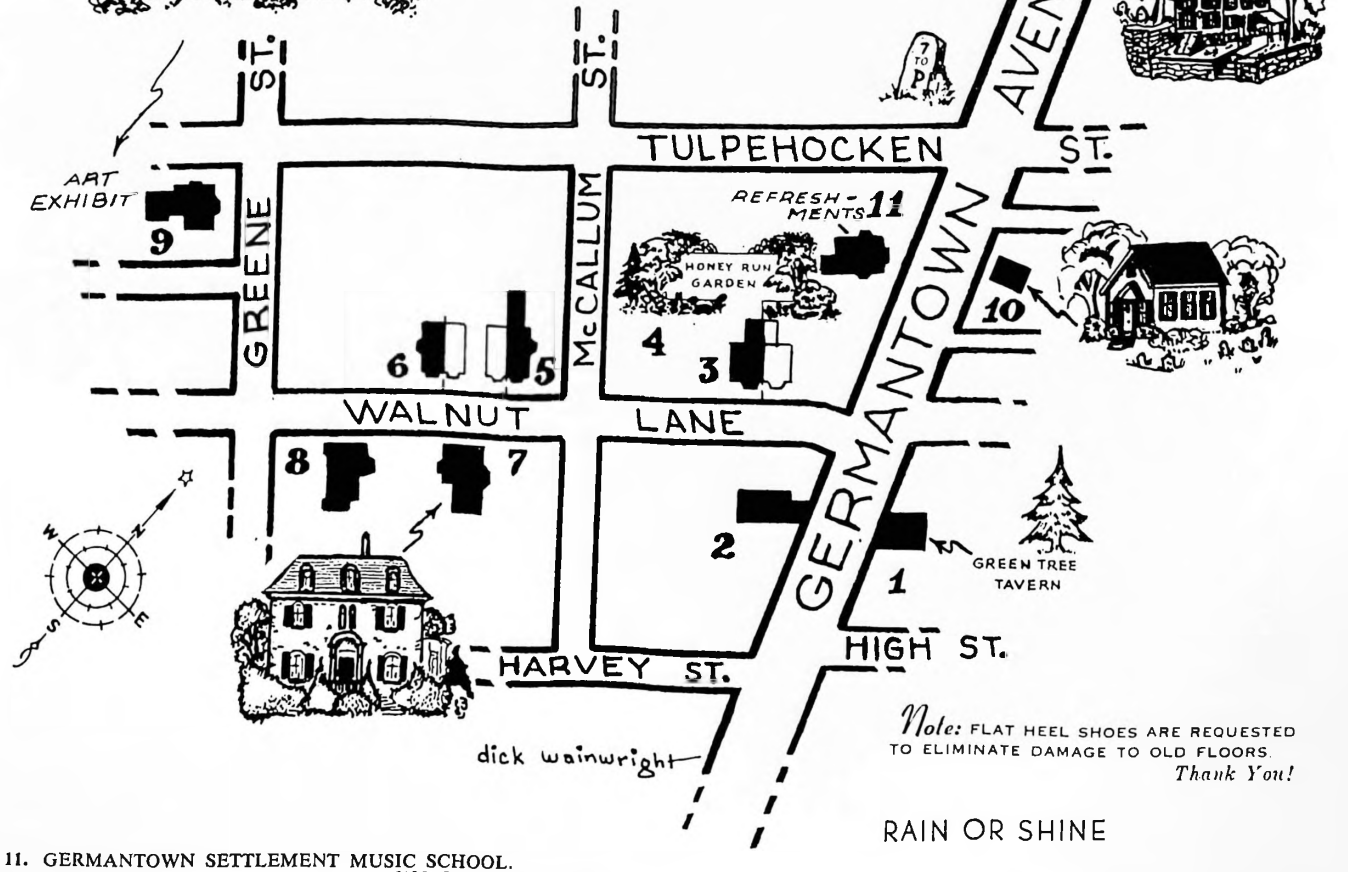
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RAIN OR SHINE

1. GREEN TREE TAVERN, 6023 Germantown Avenue
Built by Daniel Pastorius who kept the tavern until his death in 1754. In 1907 the First Methodist Church took over the property.

2. WYCK, 6026 Germantown Avenue
Residence of Mrs. Robert Haines—Oldest house in Germantown. Portion of house built before 1700. Used as a British field hospital during the Battle. Visited by General Lafayette in 1825.

3. MR. AND MRS. C. REID McNEILL, 19 W. Walnut Lane
French Mansard style home built in 1860. Guests will see how a fine old Germantown house can combine the best ideas of two centuries.

4. OLLINGER GARDEN (Honey Run Garden)
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Ollinger, Rear 29 W. Walnut Lane
A beautiful quiet spot. Here rises a small trickle of spring water that becomes Honey Run and joins the Wingohocking Creek. In early times visiting Indians would camp on the ground. (Note the house #23 W. Walnut Lane (not open)—was tenants' to Wyck—built in the 1690's.)

5. MR. AND MRS. DAVID J. KELLY, 111 W. Walnut Lane
Rambling Victorian twin which recently acquired new bathrooms, a kitchen and other 20th Century amenities through the Neighborhood Renewal Program. Prints, paintings by Germantown artists, also antique china.

6. DR. AND MRS. GEORGE D. SHOUP, 121 W. Walnut Lane
A professionally-groomed first floor contains very complete offices of Dr. Shoup. Second floor consists of unusually beautiful modern living quarters.

7. DR. AND MRS. JOHN H. WOLF, 124 W. Walnut Lane
You pass through a lovely wrought-iron door leading to large living rooms containing paintings by famous artists. The rear Florida area looks down on a patio for out-door living.

8. MR. AND MRS. DAVID E. CONNOR, 146 W. Walnut Lane
An architect's family enjoys most uniquely laid out living quarters with an enclosed out-door patio and its lush green background.

9. EBENEZER MAXWELL MANSION, 200 W. Tulpehocken St.
A picturesque Victorian Mansion built for Ebenezer Maxwell in 1859. The building has remained unchanged for over 100 years. The Germantown Historical Society plans to use the building as a Victorian Museum.

10. MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE, 6119 Germantown Ave.
Present building 1770. William Rittenhouse, first papermaker of the Colonies was first pastor. Original pews continue in use, and here is original table on which first protest against slavery was signed. It was at this point that General Agnew (British), during the Battle received his mortal wound.

11. GERMANTOWN SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL.
6128 Germantown Avenue
Originally a Victorian residence. First used as an annex to Germantown High, then converted into a YWCA, and about 1959 was redesigned as the Germantown Branch of the Settlement Music School. It now provides music instruction for 1100 area students with a faculty of over 60.
Refreshments will be served.

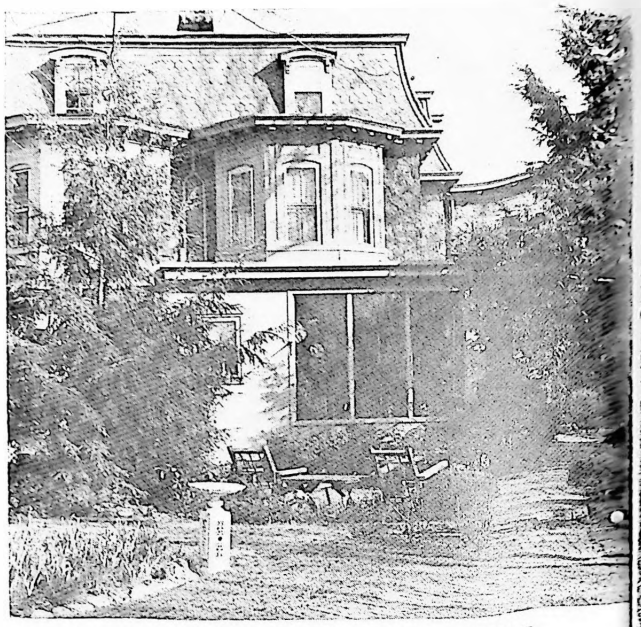
12. JOHNSON HOUSE, 6306 Germantown Avenue
Stood in the thickest of the fight at the time of the Battle. Still contains bullet holes, and the cannon ball chipped north corner of house. Now the Woman's Club of Germantown. Built 1768.

13. CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE, 6309 Germantown Avenue
Built in 1775. Used as a school for many years for the residents of Upper Germantown. First meeting was held here which led to organization of Junior Order of United American Mechanics.

14. UPPER BURIAL GROUND, Adjacent to Concord School House
Oldest known grave said to be that of Cornelius Tyson, 1716. Said to be oldest existing tombstone in Pennsylvania. In east corner of grounds are graves of several American soldiers killed in Battle. Indians are also buried here.



1 & 2. GREEN TREE TAVERN
from terrace back of Wyck.
Green Tree Tavern—6023 Gtn. Ave.
Wyck 6026 Gtn. Ave.



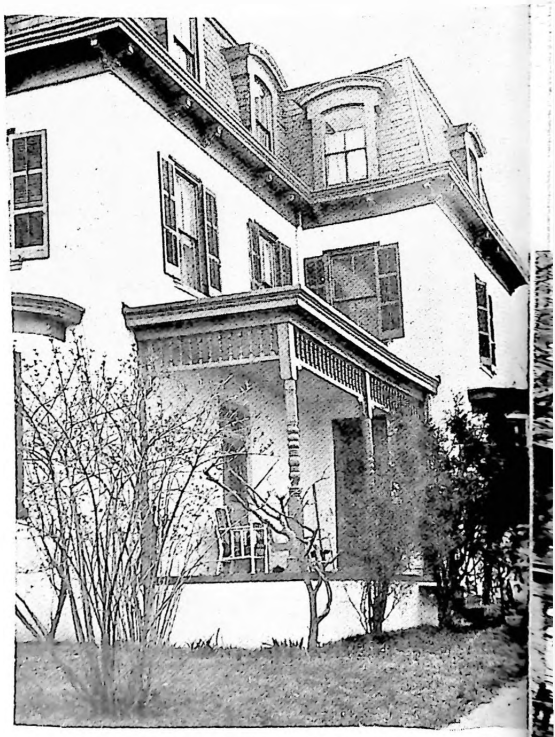
3. HOME OF MR. & MRS. C. REID McNEILL
19 W. Walnut Lane

Annual Spring Tour

The Germantown Historical Society

These are the houses that will be open to visitors on Saturday, May 17, 1969.

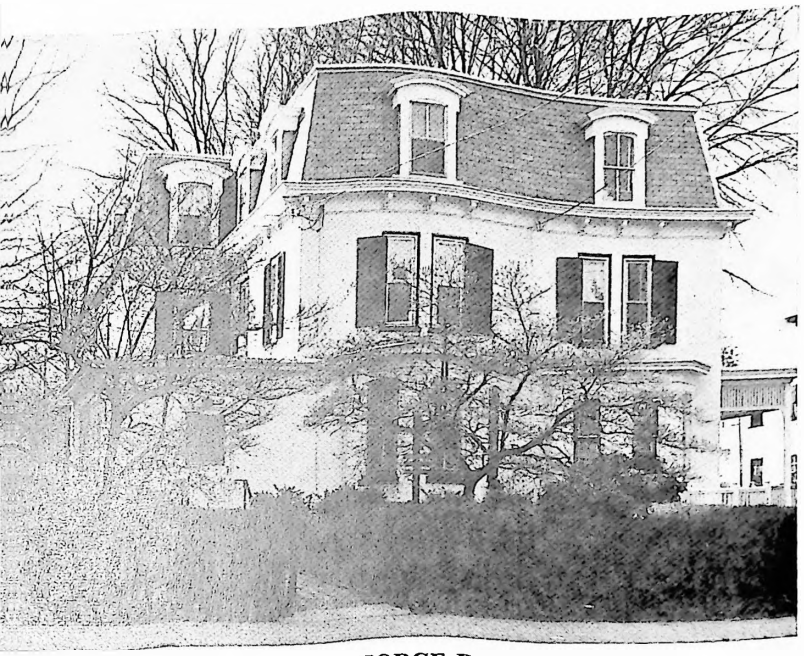
The numbers correspond to the numbers used on the map on page 9.



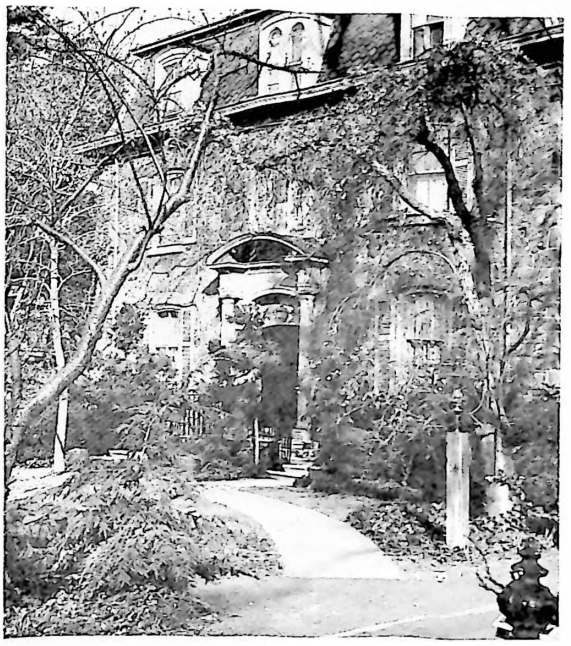
5. HOME OF MR. & MRS. DAVID J. KELLY
111 W. Walnut Lane

4. OLLINGER GARDEN
29 W. Walnut Lane

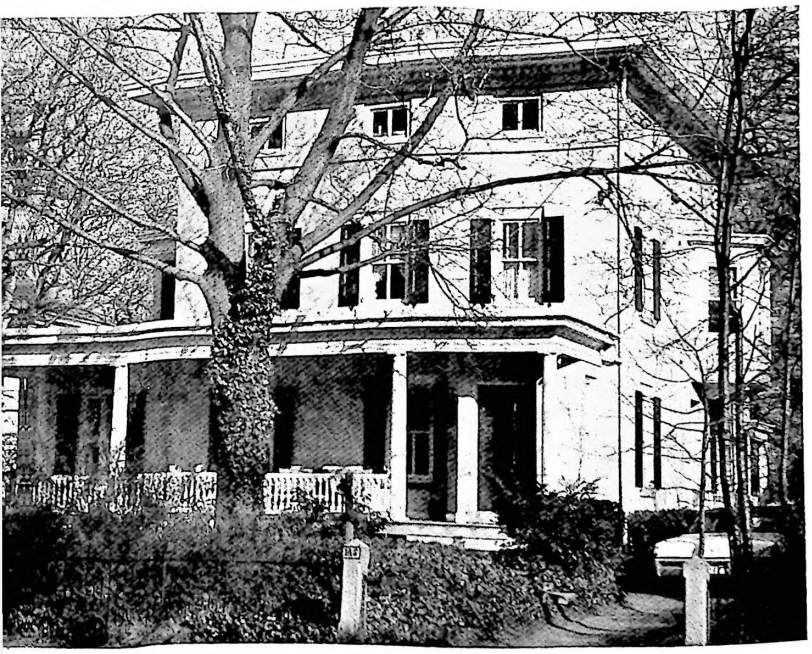




6. HOME OF DR. & MRS. GEORGE D. SHOUP
121 W. Walnut Lane



7. HOME OF DR. & MRS. JOHN H. WOLF
124 W. Walnut Lane



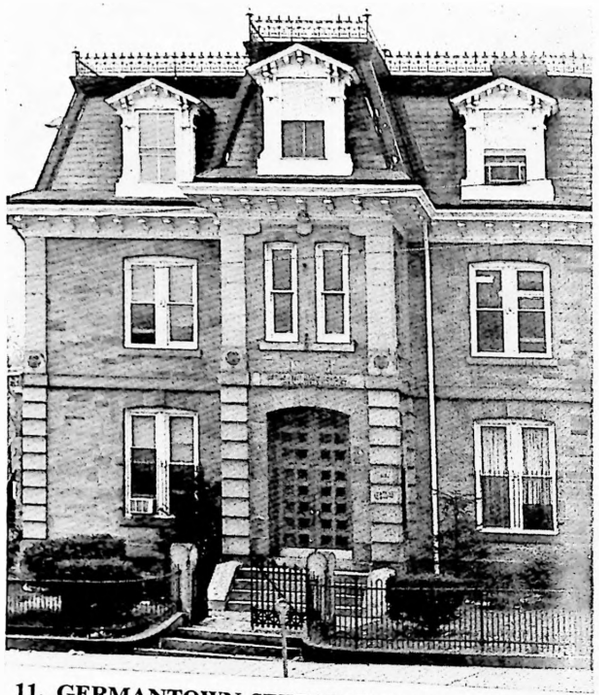
8. HOME OF MR. & MRS. DAVID E. CONNOR
146 W. Walnut Lane

9. EBENEZER MAXWELL MANSION
200 W. Tulpehocken St.

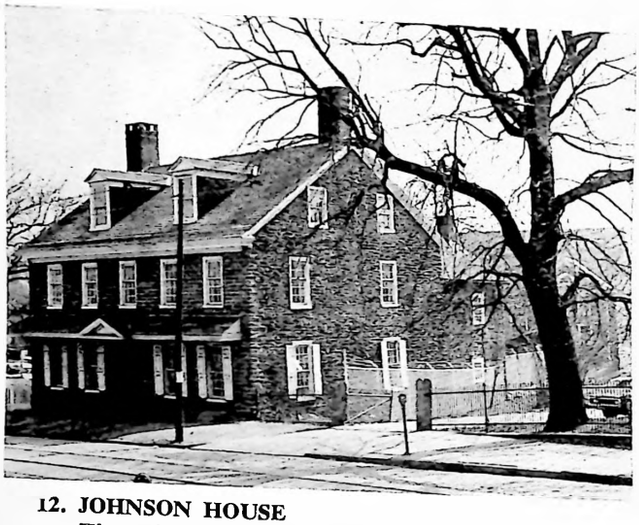




10. MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE
6119 Germantown Ave.

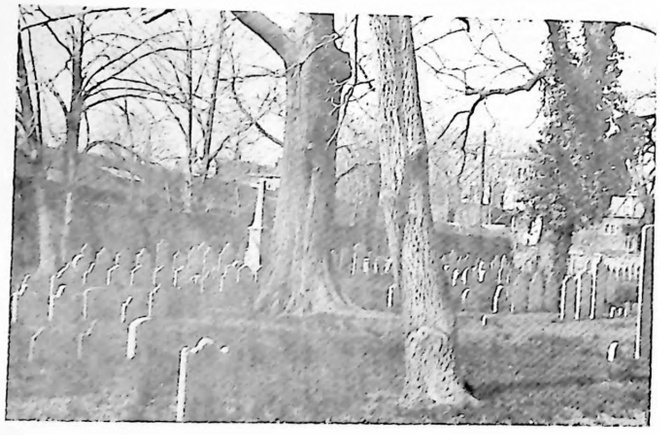


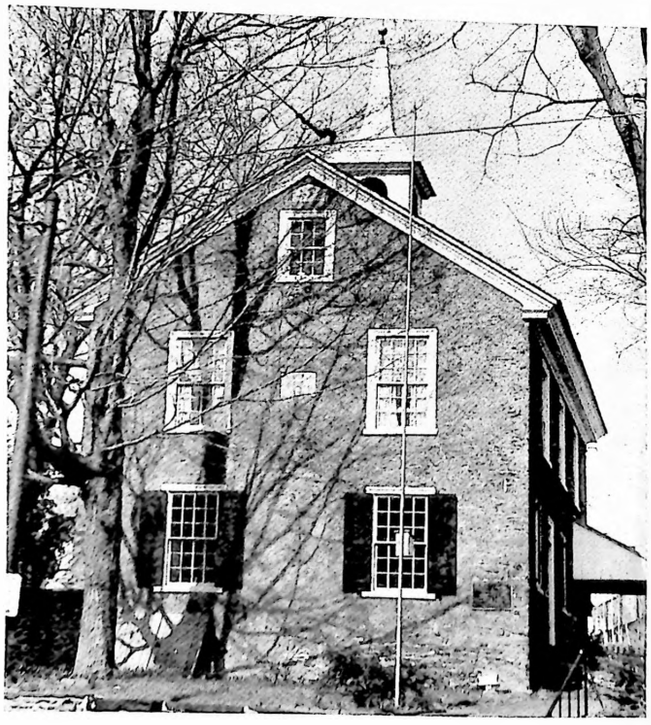
11. GERMANTOWN SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL
6128 Germantown Ave.



12. JOHNSON HOUSE
Women's Club of Germantown
6306 Germantown Ave.

14. UPPER BURIAL GROUND
6309 Germantown Ave.





13. CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE
6309 Germantown Ave.

THE BUCKTAILS

By JAMES A. KILLOUGH, A.B., M.A.

Principal of Frankford High School, Philadelphia. Formerly a teacher of Social Studies, Philadelphia Senior High Schools.

WE were a Bucktail Regiment. We each wore the tail of the gallant buck of the forrest in our caps—a sign of good marksmanship and fearlessness and of hit-us-if-you-can, and the Johnies used to say that 'they'd about as soon see the devil himself as see them there dog-gone, long-legged Bucktails a-comin' over the hill.' "[1] So the Reverend H. M. Kieffer, late Drummer Boy of Company D, 150th Regiment, eulogized his old comrades when they met at Gettysburg for their Second Reunion, September 10th, 1890.

The 150th (Bucktail) Regiment, which saw action at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, in the Wilderness and at Petersburg, should be of more than passing interest to the people of Germantown. It had its genesis here; and its spark plug, Captain Langhorne Wister, came from this area.

The Regiment was born of the exigencies of the situation resulting from the disastrous campaign before Richmond in the summer of 1862. The Union forces were decimated at Mechanicsville, Gaines Hill, and Malvern Hill; and suffered terribly from the "pestilential air of the Chickahominy,"[2] which exacted a heavy toll in casualties. Reinforcementts were in order and the need for immediate recruitment was painfully apparent.

In July, 1862, Major Roy Stone, Commander of the First Pennsylvania Rifles (the original Bucktails, then lying inactive at Harrison's Landing) requested permission to return to Pennsylvania in order to recruit a brigade "of the stamp of men as the 1st Rifles."[3] His immediate superior, Colonel Hugh W. McNeil was enthusiastic about the idea. Writing to Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, on July 8th, the Colonel heaped praise upon the Bucktails.

"Where the Bucktails fought," McNeil wrote, "there was no giving way of our lines, —The name of 'Bucktail has become a terror to the enemy. —A Bucktail Brigade of light infantry," he stated, "would reflect additional honor on the Old Commonwealth and the Executive that has given the Pennsylvania Army to the country."[4]

In the same month, Captain Langhorne Wister, Company D, 1st Pennsylvania Rifles, asked permission to go home (i.e. to Philadelphia and Germantown) to help recruit a "Bucktail Brigade."

Governor Curtin acceded to Colonel McNeil's petition with alacrity and the requisite authority for putting the mission into effect was given without delay. Major Stone and Captain Wister returned to Pennsylvania and began the recruitment of several companies which eventually became the 150th Pennsylvania Infantry (2nd Regt. Bucktail Brigade). By the Twentieth of August, clothing and supplies had been issued to the Command.

"From the best confirmation to be had," wrote Lt. Colonel Thomas Chamberlin, "It is probable that among the earliest enlistments were some from Company A, effected in Germantown by Harvey Fisher who became 2nd Lieutenant."[5] Working closely with Cornelius Widdis and W. M. Taylor, also of Germantown, Lt. Fisher obtained a large list of recruits and soon completed the roll of Company A.

Meantime, George Jones began, in Germantown, to raise Company B. Within the short space of four or five days he had 80 recruits on his list of "Bucktails."

In Philadelphia proper, Benjamin Janney, William S. Pine, Harry W. Gimber, William A. Elsegood, and others engaged in recruiting activity for the 150th. Their progress was somewhat slower than that of their colleagues in Germantown. Apparently, too many men in the "inner city" wanted to be chiefs; not enough were content to be Indians!

"The number of persons ambitious to wear shoulder straps was out of all proportion to the number of those who were willing to handle the musket."[6]

Many skeleton companies—there being no dearth of would-be officers—were formed which shortly had to be consolidated in order to fill the complements of Philadelphia units recruited for the new regiment. Despite the difficulties encountered in downtown Philadelphia, the requisite companies were mustered in and bivouacked near Nicetown on Logan's Farm before the close of August. The farm was then known as "Stenton" —not far from where 15th and Cayuga now intersect.

Prior to the encampment, George Jones, now Captain, maintained his company at Napfle's Hotel, a hostelry at the corner of Duy's Lane (now Wister Street) and Main Street (presently Germantown Ave.).

The several companies remained at Stenton until marching orders were issued. These were spurred by General Pope's ineffectual campaign in Northern Virginia. The recruits were dispatched to Harrisburg to join three companies, raised in Crawford, McKean, and Union Counties, to form a regiment with a total complement of 928 men. September 4th, the troops were issued Enfield rifles, muzzle-loaders of limited range; a

stand of colors of "inferior silk"[7]; and ordered to Washington to assist in the defense of the Capitol.

The 150th had been put together in the incredibly short space of twenty days. In the face of Union defeats and the lag in patriotic enthusiasm which followed them —discouraging factors for recruiters—Major Stone and Captain Wister had accomplished a brilliant feat.

On September 14th, the Bucktails encamped at Meridian Hill in Washington. Tents were supplied and Captain Wister, relieved of his duties as a recruiter, assumed command with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Duties in Washington consisted of guarding the Old Soldiers' Home, then being used by President Lincoln and his family as a summer residence; doing guard duty at the Old Capitol Prison; and escorting prisoners to and from Ft. Monroe.

President Lincoln often visited the guard and, on numerous occasions, Mrs. Lincoln arranged that midnight lunches be served the guard upon their release from duty.

During the winter of 1862-63, the Bucktails were parade soldiers, a status with which they were not too happy. Nevertheless, life was far from dull in the Capital. Prominent citizens, governors, congressmen, and distinguished foreign visitors were always on the scene. Hundreds of people gravitated to Washington at one time or another, hoping to see a piece of the action. Troops were constantly moving to and fro.

"- - - the town was full of life, full of business and ocial enterprise, and among all was a feverish desire be amused."[8] The great Edwin Forrest, now beyond s prime, played "Othello" at the National Theatre. fficers of the 150th probably attended. Enlisted men, more than likely, headed for the Variety where the diversion was more pungent, the jokes more suggestive, the girls less inhibited, and the admission more attuned to their pocketbooks.

The Bucktails, however, were not recruited to gambol their days and nights in the Capital, but to gamble their lives in defense of the Union on the battlefield. On February 15, 1863, the Regiment embarked on the steamtransport, "Louisiana," reaching Aquia Creek six hours later. Joining the Army of the Potomac at Belle Plain, Virginia, the Bucktails were immediately attached to a division commanded by Major General Abner Doubleday—more widely known for his connection with baseball than by his contribution to his country as a soldier in the Civil War.

Colonel Wister drilled the Pennsylvanians constantly; engaged them in skirmishing; and gained for them a reputation as a well-disciplined and polished regiment.

In April, the 150th was assigned to watch the Confederate troops near Port Royal. In May, it engaged the enemy at Chancellorsville, meeting its first ordeal of fire with spirit and elan. Here the men learned to lighten their Knapsacks; and here they learned to respect Lee's men as worthy adversaries.

During June, the Bucktails skirmished at Manassas Junction; and from that point marched by way of Frederick, Mechanicsville, Franklinville, and Emmettsburg to join the 3rd Division at Gettysburg! There, on the field of battle, General Doubleday addressed a few words of encouragement to the regiment, "reminding them that they were upon their own soil, and that the eye of the Commonwealth was upon them, and that there was every reason to believe that they would do their duty to the uttermost in the defense of their State."[9]

An incident which occurred at midday on July 1st, did much to create good feelings and to stimulate the courage of the Bucktails. While waiting and watching for an enemy attack, Colonel Chamberlin's attention was called to a tall, bony man approaching from the direction of Gettysburg. The man was moving with deliberate step, carrying an Enfield rifle at "trail." He was evidently quite old and was peculiarly dressed. Fitted out in dark trousers and waistcoat, a blue swallowtail coat and high, black silk hat, he reported to Colonel Chamberlin and asked, "Can I fight in your Regiment?" The Colonel referred him to Colonel Wister.

"Well, old man, what do you want?" bluntly demanded the Colonel.

"I want a chance to fight with your regiment."

"You do? Can you shoot?"

"Oh yes," and a smile crept over the old man's face which seemed to say, "If you knew that you had before you a soldier of the war of 1812, who fought at Lundy's Lane, you would not ask such a question."

"I see you have a *gun,* but where is your *ammunition?"*

Slapping his hand upon his bulging trousers pockets he replied, "I have it here."

"Certainly you can fight with us," said the Colonel, "and I wish there were more like you."[10]

Colonel Wister advised the old man to join the line in an adjacent wood where he would be more sheltered from sun and bullets. "With apparent reluctance, as if he preferred the open field, he moved toward the woods, and history has written the name of John Burns in the roll of the world's heroes, and his brave conduct is imperishably linked with the glories of Gettysburg."[11]

Within a few minutes of this episode, the Regiment came under fire from the North Carolina Brigade. Fighting raged during the entire day. Before nightfall, "Nearly half of the original force had been killed or wounded and scarcely an officer was left unharmed."[12] Colonel Wister was shot through the mouth and face and forced to yield active direction of the Brigade to Colonel Dana of the 143rd Pennsylvania Regiment.

On July 2nd, the Bucktails fought near the McPherson Barn, from whence they were finally withdrawn to the Seminary. During this withdrawal, Corporal Joseph Gutelius, the Regimental color-bearer, fell wounded. A comrade in passing begged him to let him have the colors, but Gutelius declined.

"I have carried them thus far and mean to carry them through," he said.

Unfortunately, at that point, a company of Confed-

erate skirmishers appeared. A rattle of musketry was heard "and the brave corporal fell dead with the flag clasped in his arms."[13]

On the final day of Gettysburg, Company A suffered severely from artillery fire. Shored up by a detachment of sharpshooters, the Bucktails faced the full fury of Pickett's Charge! They played a heroic role in assisting in the final repulse.

While at Gettysburg a rather novel incident occurred. On July 1st, Captain Jones' Company went into action as skirmishers. Simultaneously, the Captain ordered a Private, Rodearmel, to take a number of canteens and to fill them at a rivulet a few rods to the rear. "Rody" failed to return on July 1st and was not seen again until the morning of the Fourth when he presented himself to the Captain on Cemetery Ridge with a large collection of filled canteens.

"Captain, here's the water! I knew you wanted *good water,* so I thought I'd go back to Germantown for it; but the provost guard stopped me at Baltimore."[14]

Sure enough, Rody had started for home, but was arrested on the way and returned to the army under guard.

This was one of the few instances of shirking among the Bucktails. In the main, the conduct of the rank and file was above reproach.

"I relied greatly on Stone's Brigade to hold the post assigned them," wrote General Doubleday in his official report, "My confidence in this noble body of men was not misplaced — They repulsed the repeated attacks of vastly superior numbers at close quarters and maintained their position until the final retreat of the whole line. — This Brigade, in common with almost every other regiment in the 3rd Division, were Pennsylvanians and were activated by a heroic desire to avenge the invasion of their native state."[15]

Colonel Stone, in his report, praised his troops as follows: "No language can do justice to the conduct of my officers and men on the bloody first day—to the coolness with which they watched and waited under a fierce storm of shot and shell, the enemy's overwhelming masses; to their ready obedience to orders, and prompt and perfect execution under fire of all the tactics of the battlefield; to the fierceness of their repeated attacks and to the desperate tenacity of their resistance."[16]

For the 150th, the war after Gettysburg was anticlimax. It saw little action during the winter of 1863-64. In February, 1864, Colonel Wister resigned the command to which he had been restored after Gettysburg, and left for home.[17] Thereafter, the command of the 150th changed several times until General U. S. Grant took over as Lt. General of the Army of the Potomac. The Bucktails performed skirmisher duty in the Wilderness; saw limited action at Spottsylvania Court House; joined the attack at Cold Harbor; and were present at the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg.

Petersburg was the end of the action for the 150th. On February 10, 1865, the Brigade was detached from the Army of the Potomac and shipped to Elmira, New York, to take charge of conscripts there. In May, it was ordered to Fall Brook in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, to quell a demonstration by striking coal miners.

In command of the Fall Brook detail was Lt. Harry Fisher, born at Wakefield in Germantown, November 4, 1843. Here "his youth passed in that beautiful rural quarter, and here he imbibed that love of athletic sports which was so much a characteristic of the youth of this neighborhood in his time. From the Germantown Academy he entered the University of Pennsylvania, but in the second year of the war, impelled by a sense of high patriotism, he left his class and entered the 150th as a 2nd Lieutenant, Company A, being then not quite nineteen years old."[18]

The Bucktails completed two years and ten months of service on June 23rd, 1865. Mustered out at Elmira, they entrained for Harrisburg, accompanied by the 149th Regiment. Together these troops made an imposing entry into that city "to which the music of their consolidated drum corps lent an additional eclat."[19]

At Camp Curtin they collected back pay, retained their guns as souvenirs, and then, on the morning of June 29th, "amid smiles and tears and hand-shaking and embraces — the last goodbyes were spoken as singly and in groups, the members of the Regiment scattered to their homes; — some to wed again the trades and occupations from which the call to arms had divorced them; others to enter upon new pursuits of which they had little dreamed when they flocked to the Colors; others still — boys, sprung swiftly to manhood — to begin serious preparation for their life-work; all, with an added shade of thoughtfulness and a deeper love of country, to accept manfully and discharge cheerfully each higher obligation of American citizenship. Forgotten were the hardships and sufferings of the dark days of the war, or remembered only as a background against which shone more luminously the pleasant incidents, the golden deeds and experiences, the incomparable friendships of those years of civil strife; and not a heart but beat with honest pride at the thought of having contributed, however modestly, to the restoration of the 'Union of the Fathers.' "[20]

Such were the Bucktails, among them the men of Germantown, who took up arms to help preserve the Union; who gave their lives in the cause of freedom, and who covered themselves with glory on the battlefields of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. To them on Wednesday, September 11, 1889, a grateful Commonwealth, "proud of the record of her soldiery — and mindful of their sacrifices during the long years of sanguinary strife,"[21] dedicated a monument at Gettysburg. On it was inscribed the record of those three dreadful days in July 1863

INSCRIPTION ON TABLET

150th REGT. P. V.

(2nd REGT. BUCKTAIL BRIGADE)

2ND BRIGADE, 3RD DIVISION, 1ST CORPS

July 2nd and 3rd, 1863

July 1st.—This Regiment fought near Chambersburg Pike, beyond the town, where its monument now stands, losing 53 killed, 134 wounded, and 77 missing, a total of 264 out of 397 engaged.

July 2nd.—In evening skirmished to Emmetsburg Road, in front of this position, recovering two guns. Remained on skirmish line until morning.

July 3rd.—Held this position under heavy fire until close of battle.

Recruited in Philadelphia, Crawford, McKean, and Union Counties.

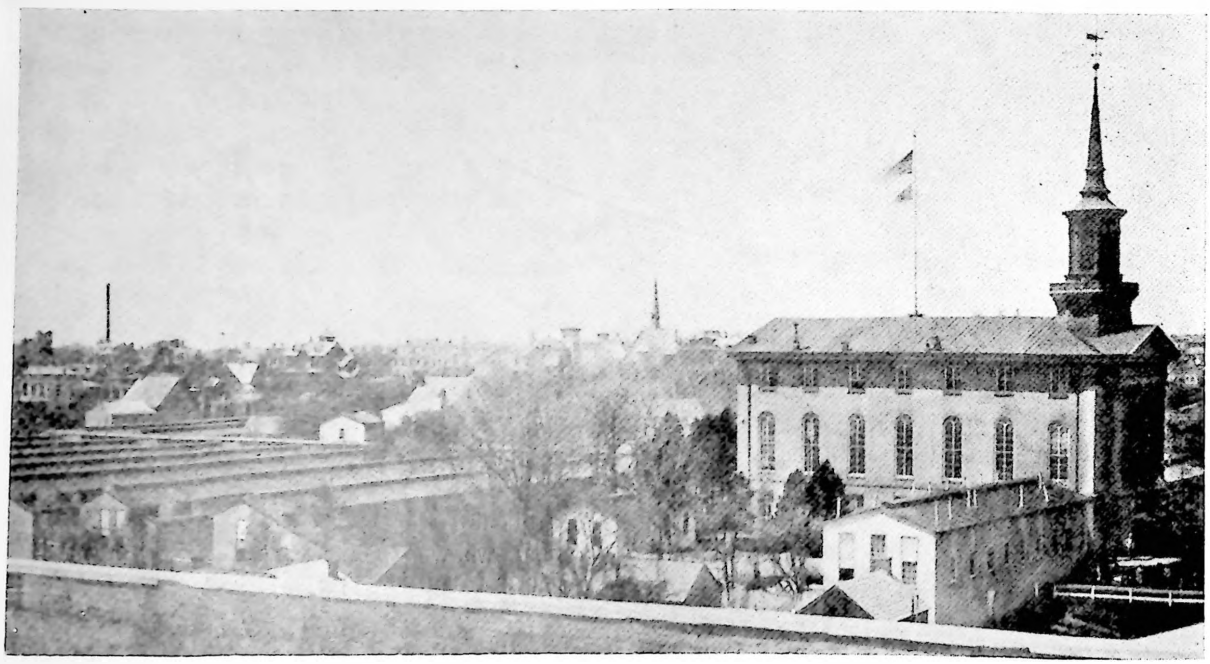
Mustered in Sept. 4th, 1862.

Mustered out June 23rd, 1865.

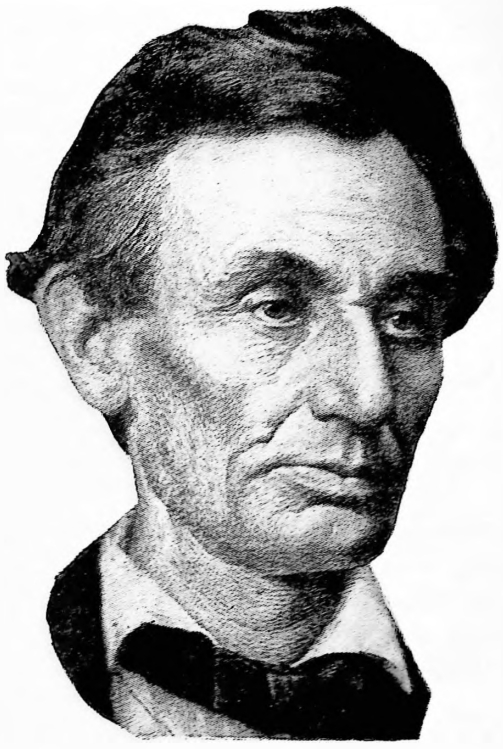
Erected by survivors, October, 1888.

FOOTNOTES

1 Kieffer, H.M., *An Address Delivered at the Second Reunion of the Survivors of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.* Lane and Scott, Printers, Philadelphia, 1890, p. 5.
2 Chamberlain, Lt. Colonel Thomas, *History of the One Hundred Fiftieth Regiment,* J. P. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, p. 11.
3 *Ibid.* p. 12
4 *Ibid.* p. 12
5 *Ibid.* p. 15
6 *Ibid.* p. 16
7 *Ibid.* p. 25.
8 *Ibid.* p. 52.
9 *Ibid.* p. 211.
10 Association of the 150th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. Bucktail Brigade, *Reunion at Gettysburg and Dedication of Monument.* Times Printing House: Philadelphia, 1889, pp. 12-13.
11 *Ibid.* p. 13.
12 *Ibid.* p. 20.
13 *Ibid.* pp. 23-4.
14 Chamberlin, *op. cit.,* p. 135.
15 *Ibid.* p. 136.
16 *Ibid.* p. 137.
17 Colonel Wister retired with the Brevet rank of Brigadier General. He died in Germantown, March 19, 1891, at the home in which he was born, and was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery.
18 Chamberlin, *op. cit.,* p. 255.
19 *Ibid.* p. 259.
20 *Ibid.* p. 260.
21 Association of the 150th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, Bucktail Brigade, *op. cit.,* p. 29.
22 *Ibid.* pp. 30-31.



CUYLER U.S. GENERAL HOSPITAL
&
GERMANTOWN TOWN HALL
From a Contemporary Photograph



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By HERMAN BLUM, Ph.D.

Mr. Blum is chairman of the Board of The Craftex Mills, Inc. He was the Pennsylvania member, advisory council, Civil War Centennial Commission, the senior vice president of The Lincoln Civil War Society, and honorary member of the National Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission. He is the Philadelphia representative of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

Ever since his more youthful days when he was a reporter on the Chicago Tribune, Mr. Blum has studied Abraham Lincoln and collected memorabilia which is exhibited in the Lincoln Memorial Room of the Blumhaven Library in Frankford, Philadelphia. *The Crier* is grateful for permission to present, herewith, three of Mr. Blum's many contributions to the literature on Abraham Lincoln.

THE LINCOLN PARADOX—SELF CONTRADICTORY, YET EXPLAINABLE

An address delivered by Herman Blum before The New Century Club of Philadelphia on May 18, 1960. It created such an impression that it was printed in the Appendix of the Congressional Record under the sponsorship of The Hon. Hugh Scott (Vol. 106, No. 124, July 2, 1960). The editors regret they were unable to print the entire address.

"- - - At the turn of the century I was an eager beaver reporter on the Chicago Tribune. I recall how excited I was about a John T. McCutcheon cartoon that appeared in the Tribune on Lincoln's birthday of that year. - - - I managed to muster up enough nerve to ask the famous cartoonist to autograph a copy and this McCutcheon did graciously. It still has a place of honor in the Lincoln Memorial room of our Blumhaven Library.

The McCutcheon cartoon depicts a log cabin set against a background of desolate wilderness. In the foreground, deep in the muddy ruts of a forest trail, a buckboard is being dragged by an amiable mule. A mongrel dog is trotting up ahead. On the wagon seat, smoking a corn cob pipe, is a rugged backwoodsman. Sitting beside him, rigged out in calico and sunbonnet, is his wife. Our Kentucky bushwacker points to the shack and, out of the corner of his mouth, remarks to his wife:

> "I heerd Nancy Lincoln's got another baby—a boy this time. Goodness knows whut she'll do with it. They kaint skessly take keer o' little Sairey as it is."

Ever since that cartoon was published in the Chicago Tribune, historians have been working on the theme that the underprivileged baby, who was born in that dirt floor cabin, had shiftless, improvident, illiterate parents. Over the years the discussion as to how Lincoln achieved greatness has gone on without let-up. Was Lincoln great *because* of his heritage? Was he great *in spite of it?* Which is fact, which is fiction? The stories about Lincoln's parentage may be summarized as follows: His parents were poor indeed; the father,[1] however, was hardly an ignorant man, although he lacked formal schooling. His mother was an intensely spiritual woman; his stepmother, a loving parent and an inspiration to young Abe.

In short, the thing that answers all the questions about Lincoln's paternity may be found in Lincoln's own words. And these in substance are:

"I Owe It All To My Angel Mother!"

This simple tribute to his mother has, somehow, escaped most Lincoln biographers. Lincoln's declaration

of his indebtedness to his mother, however, leaves no fundamental question about him unanswered.

Today, while we are feverishly comparing the qualifications of our "undeclared" and/or "declared" candidates for the Presidency—all of whom are *Governors, U. S. Senators,* or *Vice Presidents,* — wouldn't it be illuminating if we could account for the paradox of Abraham Lincoln becoming OUR ONLY PRESIDENT who had never been a GOVERNOR, a U. S. SENATOR, a CABINET MINISTER, a VICE PRESIDENT, a WAR HERO, or a GREAT GENERAL?

What was there about this obscure[2] lawyer who had been a postmaster of a tiny village, a humble, state legislator, and a one-term Congressman, that indicated that he was to be the preserver of a united America? Here was a man, born in a log cabin, on a site known as "Sinking Spring Farm," deep in the wilderness of Kentucky. He had less than a year's schooling, and no formal education at all. This tall, bony man arrived in Illinois in 1831, friendless, penniless, powerless, ragged and alone, *struggling for the necessities of life.*

And when it came time for Lincoln to make his bid for the Presidency, he had no multimillionaire to back his candidacy; there was nary a Wall Street tycoon among his sponsors. Nor did he have a combination of big city political bosses who met in a smoke-filled room to hand pick him! And no poll-taker buzzed around to make a survey for candidate Lincoln or to advise him how to alter his personality image to influence the voters.

Was he that well known that he didn't need organized political support to win the nomination for the Presidency? Actually, when he was nominated, he was so little known that some newspapers kept misspelling his first name as "Abram." Some of the papers printed phonetic pronunciations of his last name so people would know how to say it. He was deeply etched in the minds of the voters as a tall, awkward rail-splitter, a homespun lawyer who told stories and jokes, but could be silent and serious as well.

When he became a candidate for President, Lincoln bore the brunt of the attack of his political enemies. He endured personal defamation and mean references to his father and mother. Cartoonists savagely pictured him as a grotesque and almost diabolical figure.

What about his personality? His contemporaries said he was the homeliest man in Illinois. If Lincoln were to make an appearance on television today, his rough-hewn features, framed by his shaggy beard, would scare the bejabbers out of his viewers!

Lincoln was 6 feet 4 inches tall, ungainly in his movements. He had a high pitched, thin voice, utterly different from the deep voices of those who recite his words today. He was hardly a politician's politician. He was no spread eagle, whistle-stop, give-'em-hell orator. His stump speeches were seldom extemporaneous, although he was fast and sure on his feet, could think clearly as he spoke and his delivery was engaging and at ease. While plain spoken and timely, his talks were not always movingly expressive. By no stretch of the imagination could we rate him a radio spellbinder or "image-salesman" on T.V. today.

And was the nomination of Mr. Lincoln handed to him on a platter, because nobody else wanted it? No indeed! There were powerful contenders for the nomination. Among them was William H. Seward, then U. S. Senator and former Governor of New York, and Salmon P. Chase, U. S. Senator from Ohio. He was put in nomination as the "rail-splitter and giant-killer of Illinois." On the first ballot he received 102 votes against Seward's 173½. On the second ballot there were switches to Lincoln, the vote being, Lincoln 181, Seward 184½. On the third ballot Lincoln stood 231½, Seward 180. It was then that Ohio switched the four votes needed to nominate him. When Lincoln, in Springfield, was handed a telegram telling of his nomination, the tall craggy man read it and said:

> "I reckon there's a little short woman down at our house that would like to hear the news."

Well then, what power did pick this undistinguished lawyer for the Presidency? How was it that this relatively untried statesman, inexperienced in foreign affairs[3] or diplomacy, untrained in military science and war economy, was able to face the perils of his day and to carry out his staggering assignments? What force was it that impelled this undeveloped man to make wise decisions in frightfully crucial situations? What caused him to suddenly generate leadership which he had not shown before entering the White House? Was it the gigantic pressure of circumstances that raised this uneducated man to the highest intellectual level or *was it something else?*

Do you suppose that there is such a thing as fate? Do you believe in destiny? Do you believe that *Divine Providence,* every now and then, intervenes in the affairs of our nation, to pick a man to meet a particular crisis? Are there not a number of these mystic occurrences recorded in history — outstanding events for which there is no other explanation than that Almighty God, in His wisdom, had chosen a man *as his instrument* to avert the disaster that threatened his people?

The prophets of old saw God moving through the events of their time, and they were reviled by their compatriots. Prophetic faith today is met by skepticism; communists refuse to see the hand of God in history, yet people who suffer from tyranny and exploitation know that faith alone points the way to their redemption. In Isaih, 14:27, it says: "The Lord of hosts has purposed and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out and who will turn it back?"

The key to Lincoln's eternal position in history was the depth of his spiritual feeling. It is true that he was not a member of a regular church. In Illinois he once rented a church pew, but it was Mrs. Lincoln who usually sat in it. He was never baptized or made a formal profession of faith. This has caused some to conclude that, since he was not a member of a church, Lincoln could not be considered religious. Some of his political enemies raised the religious issue and insisted on calling him an

infidel. This did not dismay Lincoln, for he was *not an unbeliever*. He was not opposed to creeds but he did say this:

> "I cannot without mental reservations assent to long and complicated creeds and catechisms. If the Church would ask simply for acceptance of the commands 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and thy neighbor as thyself'—that Church I would gladly join with."

Besides his own statement, there is other evidence that Lincoln had deep religious convictions, and constantly sought Divine guidance. Leaving Springfield for Washington, he said, "Without assistance of that Divine Being - - - I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail." En route he said, "I shall be happy indeed, if I shall be a humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty." He truly symbolized the passage in the Bible which makes clear the nature of true religion. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Lincoln memorized long passages from the Bible. Perhaps no President who occupied the White House ever read the Bible as much as Lincoln. The White House guards used to find him, before he had had breakfast in the morning, turning the pages of his Bible in the small room he used for a library. His two great speeches—the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural, are *filled with the rich word poetry* of the King James Version of the Bible. He prayed daily and called prayer "talking with God." The day before the battle of Gettysburg, he was on his knees, praying that he might have strength and wisdom to face the crisis. In the Washington Cathedral, the beautiful bronze statue of *Houck's Kneeling Lincoln,* recalls Lincoln's remark, "that man is tallest on his knees."

William Wolf in his *The Almost Chosen People* wrote:

> "No American President, before or since, has as profound an understanding of the Scriptures as Lincoln."

He also said:

> "Lincoln is one of the great theologians of America—not in the technical meaning of producing a system of doctrine, certainly not as a defender of any one denomination, but in the sense of seeing the hand of God intimately in all affairs of nations."

There is no doubt in my mind as to the source of Lincoln's power. If he was not inspired of God, then there is no man who ever lived on earth who was so inspired.

From Caesar to Napoleon, from Socrates to Albert Schweitzer, men have risen step by step, according to well known principles. That is not what we call being a man of destiny. They are men of time, men of talent. The inspired men are fewer. Whence they came, from whence they got their power, we know not. Where did Shakespeare get his genius, Mozart, his music, Burns, his poetry — where but from God? And from the same source came Lincoln's power to carry out his stupendous mission. It was from this same divine source that Lincoln derived his courage, endurance, judgment, and mercy. *And no story told a thousand years from now will be received with greater interest than that which tells of the life and work of Abraham Lincoln.*

* * *

To the people behind the iron curtain there is one symbol of friendship they believe in and that is the name of Lincoln.

Today it is in far off places — in *Amman,* in *Delfzijl,* in *Maiquetia,* in *Mymensingh,* in *Pnompenh,* in *Sakkara* — that Lincoln study societies are being organized. In India alone, there are some 150 Lincoln societies and these groups flourish and eagerly study the principles and philosophy of their hero, Abraham Lincoln. One of their immediate objectives, after organizing these Lincoln Societies, is to memorize the Gettysburg address so as to be able to recite it both in their native tongue and also in English. Our State Department continually gets requests for copies of Lincoln's Gettysburg address from them. The words in this Lincoln masterpiece are easily translated. They are universally meaningful to people who yearn for freedom wherever there is oppression and tyranny. Lincoln spells out the American philosophy that in a free society a man can pull himself up by his boot straps. He is our secret weapon and the best asset in our diplomatic pouches.

During the late lamented Hungarian uprising, crushed so ruthlessly by the Soviet, a rebellious radio station repeatedly broadcast the Gettysburg address to hearten the freedom fighters.

* * *

In other lands, praise of Lincoln goes hand in hand with denunciation of despotism. An Associated Press dispatch from El Salvador carried the news that the Minister of Education had issued orders to schools throughout the country to pay suitable homage to Abraham Lincoln and to commemorate the 151st anniversary of his birth.

While the Soviet Union's official newsgathering agency, TASS, severely restricts its acclaim of Lincoln, and Nikita Krushchev arrogantly chants "Nyet, Nyet," the Russian people fondly remember that their renowned writer, Leo Tolstoy, characterized Lincoln as follows:

> "Of all the great national heroes and statesmen of history, Lincoln is the only real giant. He overshadows all other national heroes. Lincoln was not a great general like Napoleon or Washington; he was not such a skillful statesman as Gladstone or the adroit Disraeli; but his supremacy expresses itself altogether in his peculiar moral power and in the greatness of his character. He had come through many hardships and much experience to the realization that the greatest human achievement is love. He was what Beethoven was in music; Dante in poetry; Raphael in painting; and Christ in the Philosophy of life."

Last year Carl Sandburg flew into Moscow without a passport. He said he "forgot it" somewhere. And, lo and behold, smiling Soviet officials made no difficulty about it at all and cordially escorted Sandburg from the airfield to the Kremlin. Was this some subconscious tribute

to the famed Lincoln historian or could it be that it was deference to the Great American Emancipator that Sovietskaya Rossyia couldn't quite suppress or its censors couldn't readily conceal?

When President Eisenhower visited India last year he was given a spectacular ovation. What was the meaning of this outburst on the part of those millions in India? The answer was given to me by a Calcutta newspaper editor who is a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations. Those multitudes, he said, were not actually paying a tribute to President Eisenhower. They hailed him as the representative of the nation that gave the world Lincoln. And, logically enough, he said, they regarded their sainted Mahatma Ghandi as the spiritual heir or perhaps the reincarnation of our Abraham Lincoln.

On the occasion of the 96th Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Premier Jawaharlar Nehru, of India, made this remarkable statement to the Associated Press:

> "As we look at a world torn asunder by suspicion, distrust and fear, and living in the shadow of terrible destructive weapons, we need more than ever to remind ourselves of Lincoln's message and learn to imbibe his spirit."

Isn't it obvious that the heritage of kindliness, idealism, and political wisdom left by Abraham Lincoln for our own nation, is being shared by people the world over?

If "government of the people, by the people, for the people" is not to "perish from the earth," then neighborly relations of people to people must be promoted to spread on this earth. When this is achieved, Gettysburg will be less a memorial of the past and more a preview of man's destiny in a world of peace and brotherhood.

WAR HERO? CORRECTION PLEASE!

By HERMAN BLUM

(See Front Cover)

IN my "Lincoln Paradox" address, there is an assertion that Lincoln was one of our Presidents who, among other things, *had never been a war hero.*

But that wasn't the record or the image of the man his political supporters in 1861 wanted him to pass on to the people. The impression of Lincoln they wanted to promote was that he earned his rank as captain by heroic action against the Indians in a man's size conflict, the Black Hawk War!

We present herewith an unfamiliar illustration from *Leslie's* Weekly of March 9, 1861. Published in New York, this issue depicted scenes and incidents in the life of Abraham Lincoln. The sketch, entitled "Capt. Abr. Lincoln in the Black Hawk War," shows Abe mounted on a horse, wearing a high hat with white plume and epaulets — sword drawn, leading a charge of cheering foot soldiers against the Indians. It is evident that the purpose of the picture was to establish Lincoln's reputation as a dashing military man.

Actually, when the Black Hawk War broke out in 1834 and the Governor of Illinois called for troops, Lincoln was one of those to volunteer in New Salem with a small company of riflemen. When these were assembled, Abe was unanimously elected captain. The company marched to Beardstown and from there to the seat of the war; but during their term of enlistment — 30 days — were not called into active service. A new levy was then called for another 30-day period; Lincoln re-enlisted again and remained with his company until the war ended.

The regiment was never in contact with the enemy and, as Lincoln put it, he "did not see any live fighting Indians, but had a good many bloody struggles with the mosquitoes."

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

UNSOLVED MYSTERY OF THE CELEBRATED BIXBY LETTER

By HERMAN BLUM

Did Lincoln write it? Where is the letter now? If extant, who has it? $12,000 offered for the original.

DURING the last week of October, 1864, there was delivered to President Lincoln a batch of official War Department papers, setting forth the names of five Union soldiers, when each had died, and the battles in which they were killed. The veracity of the information submitted was attested by Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. The five heroic soldiers were sons of the widow Bixby of Boston.

Accompanying the papers was a letter from Gov. John A. Andrew of Massachusetts to the Secretary of War requesting that a "letter might be written - - (Mrs. Bixby) by the President of the United States, taking notice of a noble mother of five dead heroes so well deserved."

In accordance with this advice, President Lincoln wrote a letter of condolence to Mrs. Bixby on November 21, 1864, the facsimile of which, currently in circulation is on page 22.

That such an eloquent letter should be shrouded in mystery is understandably vexing to Lincoln scholars. There is even some doubt about the magnitude of Mrs. Bixby's tragedy, as to the number of sons involved. Controversy as to whether Lincoln ever wrote such a letter and if it was actually delivered to the widow Bixby continues unabated.

As to the delivery of it, there is undisputed evidence that a letter from Washington was handed to Mrs. Bixby on November 26, 1864, by William Schouler, Adjutant General of Massachusetts. *The Boston Evening Journal* of November 25, 1864, carried the copy of President Lincoln's letter, prefacing it, "The following letter was this morning received at the Adjutant General's office for Mrs. Bixby, the lady of this city referred to in General Schouler's communications to the *Journal* of Monday evening last." *The Boston Evening Transcript* of the same date also printed the "letter addressed to Mrs. Bixby by A. Lincoln," with these introductory remarks: "Mrs. Bixby — a lady in the southern portion of this city . . . Her lonely abode was made cheerful this morning by the receipt of the following letter from President Lincoln."

In spite of this evidence and the certainty that the President himself would have been quick to deny having written the letter had he not done so, efforts to discredit the Bixby letter still persist.

Those who challenge the authenticity of the letter point to the fact that no one has been able to produce the original letter for examination. General Schouler's own statement in his memoirs that he had the pleasure of placing the letter in Mrs. Bixby's hands, does not satisfy the scoffers.

It is true that no one can testify that the letter exists today, for between the date of its receipt by Mrs. Bixby in 1864 and 1878, when she died, no one is reported to have seen it. As late as 1953, two nationally circulated magazines published articles challenging the authenticity of the Bixby letter and even questioning that it was ever written. One bluntly classified the Bixby letter as a "myth." The other questioned the facsimiles which have been in circulation some 70 years or more.

Some have suggested that it was Lincoln's secretary, John Hay, not the President, who wrote the Bixby letter. As to the Hay authorship, Hay himself disposes of it in a letter written by him in 1904 saying, "The letter of Mr. Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby is genuine."

The widow Bixby could, of course, have readily disposed of such a stirring Presidential autograph letter for a fairly substantial sum. She made a poor living for herself and always needed money. Would she have had scruples against disposing of the letter? If she sold the letter, what has become of it?

According to comments by the relatives of Mrs. Bixby, the letter does not seem to have been in the widow's possession at the time of her death, although it was but three years later, in 1881, that copies were first distributed as facsimiles.

What significance, if any, is there in the fact that Michael J. Tobin of Boston secured a copyright for the facsimile of the Bixby letter in 1891? Practically all of the early students of Lincoln accepted the facsimiles as having been produced from the original letter. Lithography was the process probably used in making the plate which required a clean-cut copy to be photographed. The character of some of the letters makes it appear as if the actual copy used was a tracing of the original letter.

It is fairly tenable that the facsimile of the Bixby letter in circulation today* were reproduced from an original Lincoln autograph. But who had the original letter at the time the facsimile was produced and, if it is in existence, who has it now?

*See next page

Executive Mansion
Washington, Nov 21. 1864

To Mrs Bixby, Boston, Mass,

Dear Madam.

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom

Yours very sincerely and respectfully.

A. Lincoln

BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Benjamin J. Novak, Ph.D., Vice-Principal Frankford High School, Phila.
Lecturer, Pennsylvania State University, Ogontz Center—Phila.

Dr. Benjamin J. Novak writes prolifically for the education profession, and in the field of music. He has been visiting professor in 18 colleges and universities. Special assignments include service as consultant to the United States Department of Defense.

Philadelphia in the Civil War

Published by the City of Philadelphia, 1913.
This book may be obtained from the Germantown Historical library.

By FRANK H. TAYLOR

PERUSAL of the book bearing this title, "Philadelphia in the Civil War," by Frank H. Taylor, published by the City of Philadelphia in 1913, reveals in the military, something of the spirit and excitement of the times. There are glimpses of almost rural expanses in what today are solidly massed dwellings, and the realization that a century brings dramatic mutation in the physical structure of even a seemingly established city.

The lapse of half a century since the volume itself was written (in 1913) means that these cataloguers of the Civil War were themselves reflecting a relatively unsophisticated era which had not yet seen either of the two World Wars, the propulsion of the United States as a leader upon the International Scene, or urban change and exploration of space, among manifold other developments. Then too, in 1913, many participants in the great civil conflict of the last century still were on the scene; now none survive.

It is refreshing to contemplate the civic pride and vigor that led the Philadelphia government to pursue such a project. Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg, whose origins were an especial source of pride to the German community, appointed a special committee to supervise the publication. Over one hundred topics are treated. Much space is devoted to capsule accounts of the scores of regiments, indicating the nature of their services and including chilling casualty statistics.

Involvement of Philadelphia is seen to include everything from fighting manpower to Jay Cooke's heroics in finance, the Union League, manufacturing, naval construction, medical services, the railroads, and volunteers who performed miracles of feeding the hungry, lost, and lonely.

Over fifty illustrations make more real Philadelphia's place on the Civil War scene. The photographs and drawings serve further to underscore the ever-changing physical appearance of the city.

The venerable Frankford Arsenal in Bridesburg is familiar, but the City Arsenal on Race Street east of Broad, and the Schuylkill Arsenal have long since gone. A state arsenal stood at the southeast corner of 16th and Filbert Streets.

One of several United States General Hospitals was at Broad and Cherry Streets. The Citizens' Volunteer Hospital at Broad Street and Washington Avenue, was maintained by private subscription for hordes of the army and navy passing through via the Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad station situated on the opposite corner.

Within the city, spaces of various sizes were utilized for armories, barracks, and even encampments. Camp Union at Queen Lane, Falls of the Schuylkill, was used by the 128th Regiment. Camp Gallagher, also at the Falls of the Schuylkill, sheltered the 13th Cavalry.

"THE DIE IS CAST"

Philadelphia is, by virtue of its geography, a "gateway to the south." Trade was, we learn in the book, predominantly with the southern states and the West Indies. Intermarriage brought added ties. The uninformed masses were largely "uninvolved" and indifferent to the slavery issue. The Society of Friends is credited as laboring to arouse the public's conscience by its active opposition to slavery. Thanks to the "Quakers," the "Underground Railway" for escaping slaves was a real, illegal, and little publicized function in Philadelphia.

It was logical then, for many persons of power and substance in the city to press for conciliation between the dissenting forces. As the political climate worsened, these "conciliationists" were stigmatized by their opponents as "doughfaces."

A gradually changing outlook was accelerated by the firing upon Fort Sumter, and Philadelphia lost little time in responding to the President's call for six regiments, battalions, cavalry troops, and other attached bodies, besides many Philadelphia companies serving in other states.

Alarm over loss of southern customers was justified, as the city experienced an initial economic slump. There was soon, however, a rash of lucrative government contracts. Baldwin Locomotive Works, for example, soon worked at full capacity, and employment flourished also in shipyards, shops, mills, and factories.

THE MILITARY

Valiant efforts were exerted to recruit and to equip Philadelphia fighting units. Historic military commands, each with long and proud traditions, made their contributions to the Northern effort. "The First Troop—Philadelphia City Cavalry," organized before the Revolutionary War, and the oldest military organization in the United States, just as it did in previous national emergencies, soon entered the field; so did the "Artillery Corps Washington Grays," and the "State Fencibles."

The rank and file in almost 150 regiments gave Philadelphia a more than proportionate share of fighting men in the Union Army. There was considerable excitement among the stay-at-home youth, who were captivated especially (as were many of their elders) by the colorful Zouave forces.

Boy cadets relished drill and marching exercise. Students of the Pennsylvania Military Academy and other groups, gave well-disciplined displays at the Academy of Music and the Musical Fund Hall. The Jefferson Grammar School was one of several centers for youth groups of "Minute Guards."

Many boys indeed, succumbed to the lure of the "real thing." There were 846,000 boys in the Union Army sixteen years of age or less. Any pupil in the highest grade at school was entitled to graduate with his class, though absent on duty.

Philadelphia's first fatality was George Leisenring, an unmarried, 26-year-old private in Company C, 2nd Regiment Washington Brigade. The circumstances were especially confused and tragic. The unarmed recruits under General William F. Small, entrained for Washington, leaving on the Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad at 3 AM, April 19, 1861. Arriving at the Baltimore Station at noon, they were attacked by an infuriated secessionist mob. Private Leisenring died three days later of a stab wound of the chest at Pennsylvania Hospital. His grave has been lost.

NEGRO TROOPS

Not until after the Emancipation Proclamation, effective January 1, 1863, was attention given to raising Negro Troops. Massachusetts pioneered, enlisting the "54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Colored." Many Philadelphians were enrolled, including Norwood Penrose Hallowell, who rose to the rank of Colonel. The Philadelphia Inquirer, decrying the apathy and prejudice on the local scene, noted on June 26, 1863, that "Pennsylvania has already lost fully 1500 men who have enlisted in Massachusetts."

Philadelphia's Negro troops were trained at Camp William Penn in Cheltenham Township, and a school of instruction was opened at 1210 Chestnut Street. The first Philadelphia company of Negro troops enrolled in the United States Service was mustered on June 26, 1868. Eventually almost 11,000 local men served, earning praise from the military and respect from the public.

THE NAVY

Philadelphia, during the Civil War, lived up to its proud Naval traditions. Many men served. Rear Admiral Charles Stewart, born here when the British occupied Philadelphia in 1778, was a Captain during the war, retiring later after amassing an incredible seventy-one years of service. This doughty officer lived to an age of ninety-one.

The Navy Yard, and William Cramp and Sons—a private yard in Kensington, produced a number of ships. The Navy Yard employed 3,000 persons, engaged in refitting as well as in new construction. A record of 58 days was established in launching, on August 24, 1861, the sloop of war, "Tuscarora."

The Cramp shipyard, meanwhile, featured the building of the most formidable ship of the war, the enormous, 5,080 ton, "New Ironsides." She was sheathed with four-inch iron plates, backed with fourteen inches of oak. Her launching was May 10, 1862. After a career of twenty battles, she was destroyed by fire at League Island in 1866.

MILITARY HOSPITALS

Pennsylvania was one of the few loyal states for which fatalities from disease were less than those from battle. The rate of death from sickness relative to total enlistments was lower in Pennsylvania than in any of the Northern States. This may be explained by the geographical location of Philadelphia, which enabled rapid transportation of Pennsylvania's wounded to local private and military hospitals. The Government established, as well, army hospitals in Philadelphia. Not to be overlooked is the dedication of our physicians and nurses, many of whom forsook private practice for service to the military.

During the Civil War, the hospitals of the North treated 6,454,834 cases of illness and wounds, 195,657 of which were fatal. Philadelphia cared for 157,000 soldiers and sailors during the war. The experience, grisly though it was, helped to propel Philadelphia to the forefront of medical and surgical education.

Of the many military hospitals, only a few survive as such. Most have disappeared, changed identity, or been absorbed by other institutions. The McClellan Hospital at Germantown Avenue and Cayuga Street, a "lesser" military hospital of 400 beds, was established late in the war. The small, fifty-bed Islington Lane Hospital is of note as the "Smallpox Hospital," because it cared for cases of the disease originating in other medical centers.

Among the large installations was the 4,000 bed "Mower U. S. General Hospital," that opened in January, 1863. Covering twenty-seven acres in Chestnut Hill and Wyndmoor, the site was bounded by Abingdon and Springfield Avenues, the Chestnut Hill track of the Reading Railroad, and County Line Road. Its "avant-garde" construction featured a great elliptical corridor, from which radiated forty-seven wards, each 175 feet long. The buildings were of wood. Water was supplied from the Chestnut Hill waterworks reservoir. There is the quaint report: "A full band and drum corps supplied daily music."

DENOUEMENT

The modern citizen in reading about this epic struggle of more than a century ago, through the eyes of a 1913 reporter, wants to ask, "what useful lessons can be learned?" Surely, these people cannot have suffered and died in vain. This "hankering" persists despite healthy skepticism of reading too much into history.

Issues that sent these men marching off to war, and that convulsed the contemporary society were resolved only partially. Our now all-too-clear hindsight tells us that we have been slow in advancing along the way that the conflict pointed out for us.

In war we see massive outpourings of energy and a crystallization of effort. Perhaps we can overpower our current besetting global and internal concerns by a kind of vigorous peaceful "war." A closer search of history and conscience may yet provide useful guidelines for establishing a more viable equilibrium between individual dynamicism and society's appropriate assessments.



GETTYSBURG

From a color lithograph in the Germantown Historical Society Museum

GERMANTOWN'S SHARE IN THE CIVIL WAR

Prompt Response was made Fifty Years Ago to the Call for Troops to Preserve the Union and the Soldiers from this Region Acquitted Themselves Gallantly During the Entire War.

This is the exact text of an article published in The Germanown Independent-Gazette, Friday, February 17, 1911. It was written by N. K. Ployd, one of Germantown's veterans of the Civil War.

IN the war for the Union, Germantown rendered glorious services for the preservation of the country.

Anticipating the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln as the nation's chief, the Southern Confederacy had been proclaimed fifty years ago.* The storming of Fort Sumter made wonderful changes and the North, East, and West were up in arms, ready to defend the country's flag.

Here in Germantown drilling and recruiting commenced in earnest and in a short time two full companies of brave men were at the service of Governor Andrew G. Curtin. One company was commanded by Captain J. Reeside White, the other by Captain Hubbs.

Both companies were hurried forward to protect important points and both rendered heroic service. At the expiration of the three months' term of service all reenlisted for the war.

Two full companies were then recruited for the 95th Pennsylvania Regiment, known as Goslin's Zouaves, and were commanded by Captains Hubbs and McCollough. One full company was raised for the 106th Pennsylvania Regiment, commanded by Captain F. H. Achuff; two companies for the 150th Pennsylvania (Bucktails), commanded by Captain Jones and Captain Widdis; one company for the Pennsylvania Reserves, commanded by Captains Harkins and Stanton; one company for the Third New Jersey Volunteers, commanded by Captain Mark Collet; one company for the 114th Pennsylvania (Collis Zouaves), commanded by Captain Frank Elliott; one for the 109th Pennsylvania, commanded by Captain Farnsworth; one for the 147th Pennsylvania (White Star), commanded by Captain A. S. Tourison.

* * *

*i.e. Fifty years prior to the date this article was written

Hundreds from Germantown joined other organizations, including the Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, the Eleventh Pennsylvania Infantry, the Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-eighth, Sixty-eighth, Sixty-ninth, Seventy-first, Seventy-second, Eighty-eighth, Ninetieth, Ninety-ninth, 118th, 119th, and 121 regiments.

General William J. Palmer, a citizen of Germantown, commanded the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, known as the Anderson Cavalry. He, with his gallant boys, served with distinction throughout the war. General Palmer was awarded the Congress medal for his charge at Red Hill, Alabama, June 14, 1865, when, with less than 200 men, he defeated a superior force of the enemy, capturing their field pieces and 100 prisoners. Several Germantown boys were connected with his regiment, including H. A. Buzby, William Bennis, Abraham R. Thomas, Samuel Green, and Samuel Topham.

Three full companies were raised for emergency regiments by the Union League of Germantown to serve for state protection. Many enlisted in the naval service.

The old fire department was largely represented in Birney's and Baxter's Zouave regiments.

The various Germantown churches and schools contributed liberally of money and men for the war.

St. Stephen's Methodist Church and Sunday School gave seventy-five members. Only one aged male member remained in the choir. The Sunday School gave nearly all its male teachers, their places being filled by devoted mothers, daughters, and sisters.

Every church and organization in Germantown gave its most active members to serve under President Lincoln.

The many shoe shops gave nearly all their men and boys and some shops closed indefinitely.

Haines Street not only gave its quota in the war of the Revolution and the war of 1812 and Mexico, but sent over 100 men and boys to fight under Father Abraham in defense of the Union.

Some of the old Haines street families gave all their male members. Many of them fell in the cause or received wounds and disease to carry to their grave.

"Charley" Bringhurst and "Billy" Weitzman, of lower Germantown, made a gallant fight at Sumter and throughout the war.

Many families sent two while others sent six. Among the number who gave three were the Achuffs, Whites, Wolfs, Ellises, Carpenter, Redifers, Shrivers, Boices, Schaeffers, Bussingers, Byrams, Elvidges, Ployds, Lants, Cooleys, and many others. Among the families who sent four to war were the Karsners, Wisters, Keysers, Colloms, Rorers, and the Waterhouse families sent five boys, as did the McCanns, the Goodmans, Newhalls, Kepharts, and others.

The Nielson-McMurtrie family had the largest representation, six loyal sons being in the field. Mother Nielson, like mothers Kephart and Waterhouse, gave all to Father Abraham to fight for the Union.

Three of the McCann family went down to death, as did the three White brothers. The two gallant sons of Mother Nice fell at Gettysburg, as did the brave lieutenant, William Tourison, who commanded a company in the 147th Regiment, formerly commanded by his father, Captain A. S. Tourison, one of the bravest soldiers of the Mexican War and in the War for the Union. Lieutenant C. P. Keyser and Corporal Samuel Keyser fell at Gettysburg.

The Ellis family of lower Germantown, came from England in 1842. No better evidence of their love for their adopted country is needed than that the father and three sons answered Lincoln's call and served faithfully. The lamented John Ellis was the first from Germantown to fall. The death of this patriot caused a gloom throughout the town. Ellis Post, No. 6, was named after this loyal soldier, and his picture graces the wall of the post room.

In and around Washington our boys rendered good service; on the fields of the Peninsula many perished; they fought and fell with Baker at Ball's Bluff; at Antietam they were in the front ranks; at Fredericksburg they charged the enemy and were the last to leave the field; at Chancellorsville many fell; at the crossing of the Rappahannock they were among the first to enter the pontoon boats; at Salem heights, with the gallant Sedgwick, they only yielded when shot down; at Gettysburg every field received the blood of Germantown heroes; at Culp's Hill they fought desperately and were victorious; on the old McPherson farm, under the gallant Reynolds, our Bucktails fought overwhelming numbers and the fields were covered with their dead and wounded so that when night came less than one hundred Bucktails were present on Cemetery Hill under Captain Jones, now Major Jones, an honored citizen of old Germantown. These few survivors were hurried to Bloody Angle, where the gallant Meade and Hancock made a most determined fight for victory or for death. Death came to several Bucktails. Among the number were Harry Morris, Alfred Lees and Durborrow. Here Jacob Keyser and others received wounds to carry to the grave.

At Sherfy's farm the Germantown Zouave company, under Captain John Waterhouse, paid a heavy penalty for their devotion to their country. Captain Waterhouse was left on that bloody field for dead, but a kind providence spared him for further usefulness.

At Cemetery Hill, when Howard was almost crushed he called for part of his old command and the gallant Hancock, "the superb," hurried the Germantown company connected with the 106th Pennsylvania, under Captain Townsend, to their old commander. A little granite marker standing at the old stone wall tells its own story.

Brave boys from Germantown were with the gallant Pennsylvania Reserves on the Round Top and in their charges over the Valley of Death at Gettysburg. They were with Sheridan and Pleasanton; they were with Sherman on his "March to the Sea"; they were with Hooker at Lookout Mountain; at Missionary Ridge; at Peach Tree Creek. Yes, they went through all the struggles to Appomattox, and those who survived the years of trials and sufferings had the pleasure of living in a "reunited country with one flag."

Many of our brave boys suffered and died in Confederate prisons, including Andersonville, Libby, Belle Isle, and Sallsbury. Yet we have a few survivors with us who stood the ordeal nobly, men like Abraham R. Thomas, William Kephart, D. W. Bussinger, Gavin Nielson, Hobard Dodd, Melville H. Freas, Adam Sanderson, Daniel Lennon, Frank H. Elvidge, John Hausman, and a few others just as devoted to their country.

The Collis' Zouave Band, composed of brave Germantown boys under Captain Frank Rausher, was captured at Fredericksburg and imprisoned at Libby. Only a few survive.

At the Town Hall and surroundings was established one of the best army hospitals in the country. Here hundreds of sick and wounded soldiers received the kindest attention from skilled surgeons and capable nurses. The name of Mrs. Collins, the faithful matron, is not forgotten. Mrs. Harvey Thomas and sister rendered great assistance at the hospital as did Mrs. Reuben Keyser, Mrs. Gammerie, Mrs. Fraley, and a host of other faithful Germantown women.

Every loyal woman in the town rendered some service in the trying days of the war for the Union. When the first gun was fired at Sumter busy hands, prompted by saddened hearts, were scraping lint or making bandages, etc.

Miss Clara Jones (now Mrs. Dye) rendered glorious service throughout the war. The writer met her at the front bringing a cargo of food for the famishing soldiers. As a volunteer nurse she was second to none. She ministered to the temporal as well as the spiritual wants of the dying soldiers, whether they wore the blue or the gray, and performed the last rites at the graves of the fallen heroes. This woman of God was a blessing in the army camp and at the hospitals. Yes, God spared her for a great work here, where she is always ready to minister to the sick and dying just as she ministered in 1861-65.

Most of our faithful women were grand workers in the Christian and sanitary commissions and "their works do follow them."

THE DEFENSE OF FORT SUMTER

By CHARLES BRINGHURST

First published in *The Beehive*, April, 1937

MARCH may be the namesake of Mars, the god of War, in the Gregorian calendar, but in the United States April is the god-child of the belligerant monster: the American Revolution; the war of Secession; the War with Spain, and the World War—all with their birthdays in the month of Spring Flowers and warming breezes.

If any one war can be more regrettable and more poignant to the survivors than another, then, to the American, that one is the War of Secession: a war of section against section, friend against friend, brother against brother.

The following description of the opening of that war and the firing of its first gun at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, was written by Charles S. Bringhurst, of Germantown, at that time a corporal in Company "E," First U.S. Artillery, the defenders of the Fort. Bringhurst was in the military service many years, becoming, before his final discharge, the first sergent of his company.

On the afternoon of December 26, 1860, Major Anderson (Major Robert Anderson, U.S.A., in command of the troops at Fort Sumter), in citizen's clothes, visited the city of Charleston, a short distance from Fort Sumter, and while in a hotel there overheard a conversation among a number of persons in which they spoke of their intention of attacking Fort Moultrie (S.C.) in a short time. He immediately took his departure and preparations were at once made to abandon Fort Moultrie where his command, two companies of the First Artillery, were stationed.

That night after tatoo, the garrison of the fort were quietly awakened and the command given to get under arms in heavy marching order. Everything was done as silently as possible and the troops marched out to the front beach of Charleston Harbor where four boats were waiting to convey them to their unknown destination. Oars were muffled and strict orders given to maintain silence as rebel boats were cruising in the vicinity to prevent reinforcements to the little garrison.

The boats reached their journey's end, which proved to be Fort Sumter, without discovery by the rebels, although several times they came within a few feet of us and one of our boats touched the stern of a rebel tug. Landing at Fort Sumter a strong guard was posted and special precaution taken to prevent the landing of any boats, as the harbor was full. A sergeant and twelve men were detailed in Fort Moultrie to spike the guns, chop down the flagstaff, and destroy ammunition and other material which could be used by the enemy. Early the next morning the gun-carriages were burned and the little party rejoined their command.

At reveille the American flag was raised to the breeze on Fort Sumter, the chaplain offering prayer and the band playing the "Star-Spangled Banner," with the garrison forming a circle about the flag pole.

That morning the staff of the Governor of South Carolina, composed of three officers, came over to Fort Sumter from Charleston to inquire of Major Anderson for evacuating Fort Moultrie and stated that they would not molest him nor "injure a hair of his head."

After the return of the Governor's staff to Charleston, the South Carolinians, with state troops, took possession of Castle Pinckney and Fort Moultrie and commenced putting them in a state of siege. A floating battery was built, but was found to be lop-sided when it was launched.

Communications with Charleston were uninterrupted until April 11, 1861. Lieutenant Talbot, who had been dispatched from Fort Sumter to Washington and who was the bearer of return dispatches to Major Anderson, was intercepted in Charleston by Confederate authorities and sent back to Washington without being allowed to deliver his messages to Anderson.

Immediately afterward the Confederates began obstructing the channel by sinking stone-laden hulks and by placing patrol boats in the harbor.

On Thursday, April 11, a boat arrived at the Fort bearing Colonels Chestnut and Chisholm and Captain Lee, all aides to General Beauregard. They handed Major Anderson a demand to evacuate the Fort, stating that the Confederate authorities had refrained from any acts of violence, hoping that the United States Government would withdraw the troops from the fort. Major Anderson replied that he could not accept any terms of withdrawal until he had heard further from his government.

Shortly after midnight, on April 12, another communication was received by Anderson from General Beauregard, desiring to know on what day Anderson would evacuate and also asking for his agreement not to open fire with his batteries unless Fort Sumter was fired upon. Major Anderson replied that he would evacuate Fort Sumter on April 15, provided that he did not receive supplies or instructions from his government. This reply was handed to Colonel Chestnut at 3 o'clock and Anderson was immediately informed that Beauregard would open fire on the fort in about an hour.

The first shell was fired from Fort Moultrie about 4:30 o'clock by a certain Samuel Ruffin, of Virginia, at his special request. The surrounding rebel batteries followed with their fire and a tremendous cannonade ensued. The Fort Sumter garrison did not open fire until daylight when they had three guns bearing in Morris Island, four on Fort Moultrie, and two on the floating battery at Sullivan's Island. The barbette guns on the

parapet were soon dismounted, owing to the heavy enfilading fire of the rebels. The firing continued all day until dark. During the night Fort Sumter was silent, but occasional shells were fired by the Confederates. Firing by both sides was resumed at daybreak on Saturday morning, the 13th.

At about ten o'clock that morning the quarters inside the fort were set on fire by a shell from Fort Moultrie. So severe was the fire that the magazine was threatened and had to be protected by keeping wet blankets in front of the closed doors and by heaping dirt against them. Shortly after noon, Senator Wigfall, of Texas, arrived at the Fort under a white flag. Just at the time of his arrival the fort flag was shot away, but was quickly replaced on the ramparts. On meeting Major Anderson, Senator Wigfall stated that General Beauregard wanted to know on what terms he would evacuate the fort. Anderson adhered to his original terms, which were a salute to his own flag; removal by the garrison of camp and garrison equipage; and to march out of the fort with the honors of war.

After two visits by the aides of General Beauregard, Major Anderson's terms were accepted. During the salute to the flag, on the fiftieth round, the gun exploded, killing two men and injuring six. The garrison marched out of the fort with colors flying and the band playing "Yankee Doodle." The enemy supplied transportation to the fleet outside the bar and the garrison was shipped to New York on the steamer "Baltic."

During the bombardment the rebel floating battery at Sullivan's Island was silenced. The guns from Fort Sumter also compelled the abandoning of Fort Moultrie, the Confederates fearing that the magazines might be fired by the shells, some of which had penetrated the walls.

ART-TIQUE 69

Continued from page 8

Germantown awarded prizes of U.S. Savings Bonds valued at $175, to ART-TIQUE 68 exhibitors. Two performances daily by Jean Williams' Germantown Ballet are anticipated. Food and refreshments will again be available at the same low prices and the ART-TIQUE Committee, defying the inflationary trend, will ask the same one dollar admission donation. No additional charge is made for demonstrations and dance performances. ART-TIQUE 69 will close on Saturday, June 21, at five o'clock with an ART-TIQUE Mixer, a social event to which visitors are welcome.

The 1969 version of ART-TIQUE will again be directed by Thomas G. Armstrong of Germantown. John W. Hathaway, Jr., will manage the art exhibit. Thurlow N. Staples will oversee the antique show. All mail inquiries relative to ART-TIQUE should be directed to the Maxwell Mansion Committee, 30 West Tulpehocken Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144, or to the ART-TIQUE 69 Committee, 407 West Chelten Avenue, Phila., Pa. 19144. Telephone inquiries: General Information VI 4-4068, Art Exhibit VI 9-0182, Antique Show GE 8-7279.

Publications of the Germantown Historical Society

Magazine

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

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

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

Pamphlets

BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN ..... 25¢

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

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