GERMANTOWNE CRIER





Colonial styles on Germantown Road

Germantown Historic House Tour

see Pages 36 and 37

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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



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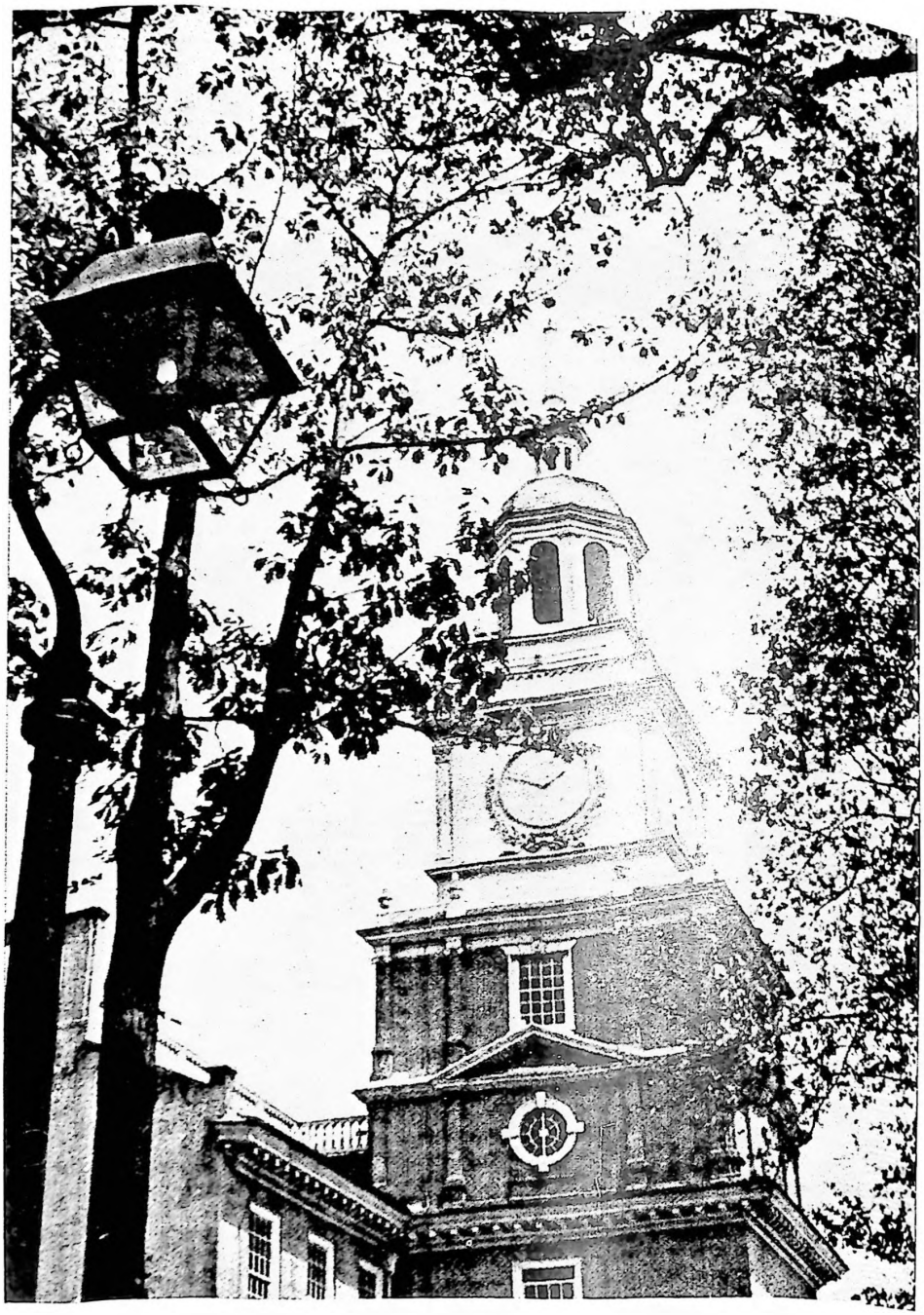
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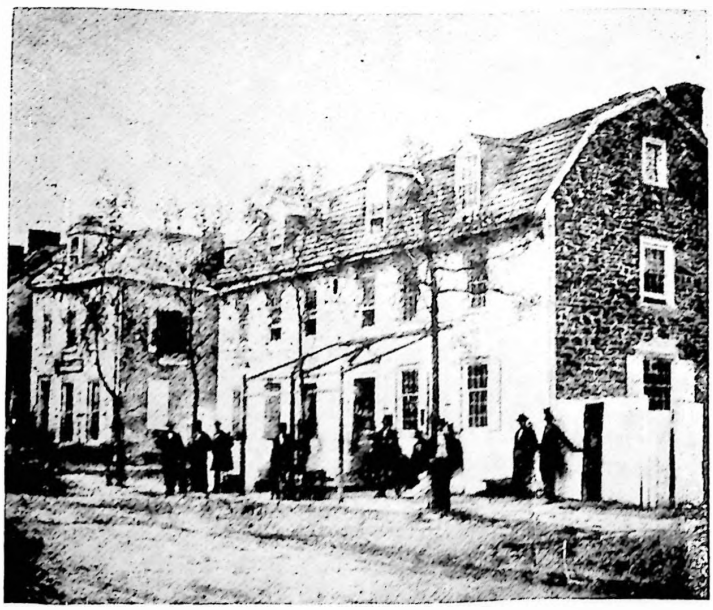
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The Deshler-Morris House During The Federal Period

By Doris Devine Fanelli, Asst. Curator
Independence National Historical Park,
Philadelphia, Pa.

This article is an excerpt of a lecture given to the Deshler-Morris House Women's Committee on March 9, 1977 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Germantown. It suggests ways in which the Deshler-Morris House currently interprets Federal, political and social history, beginning with a brief discription of Philadelphia, the capital and most important city in the United States between 1790 and 1800.

We had survived the Stamp Act crisis, a war of independence, and the ratification of our Constitution; our national identity, however, was still in its nascency. Indeed, Washington's isolationist policy was in many ways a direct result of our communities' isolation. To the European observer, America was still in its primaeval stages. The French visitor, Volney, remarked in 1796 that, "Compared with France, the entire country is one vast wood." Sea travel between major cities was frequently faster at this time that an overland route. Much attention was paid throughout the Federalist Era to establishing an inland commercial waterway system of canals and more navagable rivers. Speculation in new toll roads was popular among entrepreneurs and a number of familiar names may be spotted on the subscription lists for many of the routes still used today as major arteries to Philadelphia.

The first Federal Census taken in 1790 set the United States' population at 4 million. This figure included 700,000 Negro slaves (the majority resided in the Southern states). Major cities — those with a population of 8,000 or more — were Philadelphia (the largest), Salem, Boston, New York, Charleston, and Baltimore.

Of the aforementioned 4 million, Pennsylvania's population claimed 435,000 in 1790; 45,000 lived in Philadelphia. Today, the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of Philadelphia and its environs is set at 4 million. This city was the principal port of immigration and because the religious premises underlying its establishment, Pennsylvania's ethnic mix was probably the most homogeneous of any of the states.

The Quaker City had suffered a mild recession when Congress took its buying power to New York for the opening session of the Federal government in 1789. Concerned tradesmen here asked polemicist, Tom Paine to draft a petition which they subscribed requesting the return of government to Philadelphia. It is difficult to estimate the extent that Paine's appeal influenced the government's decision when they searched for a temporary home while the capital city was being built on the banks of the Potomac. The Congressional Record lists an act for establishing the temporary and permanent Seat of the Government of the United States July 9, 1790: "prior to the first Monday in December next, all offices attached to the seat of the government of the United States shall be removed to, and until the first Monday in December, in the year one thousand eight hundred, shall remain at the City of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania . . ." The city enthusiastically greeted this decision which would invigorate its slumping economy and catapult it to unquestionable superiority among any of its rival cities in 1790. It is interesting to note that, during his term of office, President Washington lamented the inflationary prices in the city since it was his very presence that caused them. The grateful merchants gave him a splendid dinner at Ricketts' Circus upon his retirement in 1796.

Although they cannot be reproduced here, an examination of William Birch's views of Philadelphia made in 1799-1800 provide an exciting glimpse of the Federal capital that greeted the President when he arrived on September 2, 1790. Many of the structures illustrated in the Birch oeuvre have survived as part of Independence National Historical Park, private restorations, or have been reconstructed. The State House complex where national policies were adopted by the Senate and the House, decisions were rendered by the United States Supreme Court, and state and local governments were in operation appears in several views.

The Chestnut Street Theater (now demolished) can be seen, in one view, diagonally across from Congress Hall. Isaac Franks who rented his Germantown country home to the President, was a subscribing member of the Theater. The yellow fever epidemic which drove the government to Germantown caused the Theater to postpone its opening season in 1793. Popular American plays produced in Philadelphia included Dunlap's, "American Shandyism," and Trumbull's "Constitutional Follies."

In addition to lectures at the local university, horse racing, cock fighting (which was deplored by the genteel) Rickett's Circus and Charles Willson Peale's Museum provided further diversions for the citizens' leisure time. Dancing assemblies and visits from Indian chiefs such as President Washington's Seneca ally, Red Jacket, also highlighted this era.

Philadelphia continued their interests in science during the Federalist years as they had throughout the eighteenth century. Several scientific societies existed in the city for the layman as well as the professional. Experimental balloon flights were well attended by the general public as much in search of social diversion as aeronautical knowledge. In 1790 Thomas Dobson began to republish the *Encyclopaedia Britannica,*

deemed by Scharf and Westcott" . . . the greatest literary enterprise that had yet been undertaken in Philadelphia." The twenty-one volumes with supplement were not completed until 1803.

As an outgrowth of scientific inquiry and as a necessity for greater self-sufficiency, societies for the promotion and encouragement of manufactures began to be inaugurated. The Grand Federal Procession, a parade of tradesmen brilliantly orchestrated by Francis Hopkinson in 1788 presaged Alexander Hamilton's *Report on Manufactures* and marked Philadelphia's formal entrance into the age of the industrial revolution.

As Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton established the nation's banking system and the United States Mint. Birch's view of the First Bank of the United States (built in 1793) shows the city's growing financial district. The Mint, in 1791, officially began keeping records in dollars and cents instead of the British system of pounds, shillings and pence.

The city grew from the Front and High (now Market) Street area. In the 1790's the business district was still concentrated around High Street. Isaac Franks, a broker, maintained his business address in this section. Birch offers several scenes of the markets and commercial establishments in the city's center. The High Street market sheds were open every Wednesday and Saturday; the New Market on Second Street operated on Tuesdays and Fridays. The majority of the City's printers were in the High Street area. Benjamin Franklin established a newspaper, *The Aurora,* for his grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache in Franklin Court which has been restored by the National Park Service as a tribute to young Bache's industriousness and to one of the most exciting periods of journalistic history. Bache said, "Whoever forms one political party necessarily forms two." At the height of the publisher's brief career, President Washington, who represented to Bache the opposition, refused to subscribe to *The Aurora;* instead, he read his staff's copies. Bache epitomized the rampant Francophilia of Federalist Philadelphia.

For his leisure time, the eighteenth century Philadelphia gentleman longed for the comfort, relaxed elegance and space afforded by the country homes of his English counterparts. By the Federalist period, the architecture and life styles of the British manor house had found their American vernaculars. The city's surrounding countryside in all directions was dotted with individualized expressions of wealth and taste. Hope Lodge (1723), John Bartram's estate (1770), Woodford (1756), Whitby Hall (now demolished), Mount Pleasant (1761), Solitude (1785), are but a few of the great estates. The Vice President, John Adams, lived at Bush Hill, erected in 1740 by Andrew Hamilton, and used as a hospital during the yellow fever epidemic in 1793.

To build a comfortable summer retreat that would reflect his social position and compare favorably with the other homes along Germantown Road such as Cliveden (1761), Wyck, and Stenton (1728), were probably David Deshler's intentions when he erected the large addition to his small summer cottage in 1772. Not nearly as elegant as Cliveden to the North nor as Stenton to the South, Deshler's home was, nevertheless, well-constructed with many more elaborate architectural details than his uncle, John Wister's, "Grumblethorpe" (1744), a few meters away. It was a typical Germantown house with its narrow frontage and deep yard that extended beyond what is today Greene Street.

By 1790, Germantown enjoyed status as a country retreat and also as an independent, thriving community. It is not surprising, therefore, that when the yellow fever outbreak of 1793 became epidemic, President Washington sought refuge at Isaac Frank's home for himself and quarters for his Cabinet members in the surrounding area. The Franks home must have impressed our first President enough to return to it in the summer of 1794 when governmental obligations would not allow him to take his family to Mount Vernon for a vacation. Before allowing Washington to lease his house in 1793, Isaac Franks made a brief inventory of the contents. While that enumeration is far from complete, it has been possible to utilize it along with a knowledge of the first family's habits and contemporary documentary material to portray the Washington's life-style and call attention to the social and political climate of the Federalist Period.

It is assumed that President Washington met with his cabinet members in the Parlor in 1793 and again in 1794, although during the latter period, he probably held most of his meetings in Philadelphia where he went three times a week. Debate over three important, timely political events probably took place in the parlor: the Neutrality Proclamation of 1793, and the Whiskey Rebellion and Jay Treaty of 1794.

Although he preferred to consider himself above partisanship, Washington's — like any other — administration was rife with internal struggles. The French Revolution of 1789 became the first test of our foreign policy. Alluding to an agreement of mutual assistance made between the colonies and France during our war for independence, Jefferson's Democratic Republicans saw an obligation on the part of the United States to fulfill our promise of support. The Federalists, on the other hand reasoned that since our treaty was between the United States and the King of France, our obligation had ceased upon his decapitation. The President felt that we didn't have enough power behind us at that time to be anything but neutral in a war between France and Great Britain. Hence, after much debate with his Cabinet, his Proclamation to that effect.

The President's decision was not accepted by the Democratic Republicans who supported Edmund Genet, the first diplomatic representative of the revolutionary government of France. Citizen Genet took advantage of popular good will by commissioning privateers, by authorizing an "allied" army of Americans to invade Florida, Louisiana, and Canada, and by encouraging the formation of "Democratic Societies," some of which became the centers of Jeffersonian political intrigue. Even Jefferson decided that the enthusiastic Frenchman had ventured beyond the bounds of acceptable diplomatic behavior. Genet was soon recalled upon request and dismissed by his government. He then sought and received political asylum in this country.

The Whiskey Rebellion occurred in the summer of 1794 while the Washingtons were at the Deshler-Morris house. A group of frontier farmers in western Pennsylvania resisted the tax on spirits. Isaac Franks marched westward under Governor Mifflin as part of an effort advised by Hamilton to crush the dissidents, thereby demonstrating the central government's authority. The rebels dispersed so quickly in the face of overwhelming federal force that the troops had trouble locating the rebellion. "An insurrection was announced," Jefferson remarked, "but could never be found." The President pardoned the few arrested in the operation.

Another hapless event which cast a blight on Federalism in 1794 was the Jay Treaty. John Jay resigned as Chief Justice to undertake a thankless mission to England. He was to secure compensation for commercial losses and for the slaves British soldiers had taken, evacuation of forts in the Northwest, and expansion of American trading opportunities in the British Empire.

Jay could imply that a break in negotiations might lead to war even though he knew his nation was unprepared for the military and economic consequences of hostility with England. Under those circumstances, historical perspective seems to indicate that Jay's conciliation was a reasonable one. The resultant Treaty did, in fact, include promises to evacuate Northwest trading posts, admission of American vessels to certain British ports, and certain other demands were referred to arbitration. The Treaty omitted any mention of Britain's impressment of American seamen, slaves lost during the war for independence, and activity with the American Indians. Jay's Treaty became a rallying point for Federalism's opponents. He was burned in effigy by angry mobs and the Republican press alleged that Jay had been bought by Britain (Benjamin Franklin Bache scooped the treaty in his newspaper several days before the House received its copy). The President finally did succeed in obtaining support of the Treaty from both the Senate and House, but only after many long and bitter struggles.

The parlor of the Deshler-Morris House has been refurnished as the most elaborate room in the Franks summer home because it was used for formal entertaining; but it has also been installed with the assumption that it was the room where governmental business was conducted. The furnishings have kept closely to the Franks inventory with few major additions, save a hairy-paw, Chippendale sofa which was used by the President in his mansion at 190 High Street.

Throughout the entire refurnishing of the house, effort has been made not only to fill a house with furniture, but to fill it with pieces that were either readily-documented to the Franks or Washington family, or, when that was not possible, to select a piece that makes a statement about eighteenth-century social history. In his inventory, for instance, Franks refers to "1 Sett Mantle Ornament." This could either have been an export porcelain arrangement of urns and beakers, or a set of figurines specially designed to fit the narrow space of a fireplace mantle. For variety it was decided to use a set of Derby classical child figures representing the four continents. Asia, Africa and America, each portrayed with his bountiful agricultural attributes stand with Aeuropa portrayed as Empress with attributes of the arts and sciences. This group succinctly states the eighteenth-century mercantilist theory of colonial dependence upon the mother country that governed Western economics, and personifies the European view of non-Western cultures.

Similarly, Franks records the presence of "pictures" in his parlor, but gives no clue as to exactly what the pictures were. As prints were a popular medium, William Fadden's "Sketch of the Surprise at Germantown" has been selected. Deshler-Morris was General Howe's headquarters after the battle of Germantown which was fought at Cliveden in October, 1777. Surely, Washington must have derived some small measure of satisfaction at being able to occupy his vanquished opponent's camp fifteen years later.

Another room on the first floor of the Deshler-Morris House that illustrates social history is the tea room. By the Federalist period, Western Europeans had ritualized the custom of tea-drinking as much as their Oriental mentors. It had inspired new forms for furniture (the tea table, and tea caddy), and silver and porcelain utensils (slop bowls, teapots, strainers, spoons, etc.). Hector St. Jean de Croeve-Coeur commented that Americans ". . . will habitually prefer the useful to the beautiful, and they will require that the beautiful should be useful." This rather circular description of the high price that Federal Americans placed on the functionalism of an object is amply illustrated by the variety of expertly designed and well-crafted items that were necessary accoutrements for serving tea to one's acquaintances. Primary accounts tell how fond Mrs. Washington was of entertaining and visiting her friends. The tea room provides an opportunity to inform the visitor about her lifestyle.

Americans were also avid card players, and President Washington was no exception. Isaac Franks obviously used this room as a game room since he left a card table and four windsor chairs here. These facts have encouraged the placement of a card table in the room representing the Franks' to demonstrate a gentleman's favorite pasttime to the visitor.

Finally, a young lady, well-trained in the social graces was required to be a proficient needlewoman. The Presidential Account Book contains many entries for payments made to various purveyors for sewing supplies, and to embroidery instructors for Miss Nellie Custis, the Washington's granddaughter, who lived with them. In February, 1794, Nellie received a new sewing table. The Park Service has included an English mahogany sewing table with accoutrements to show the visitor the eighteenth-century's insistence on sewing competency.

The dining room was a relatively recent room in the middle class American home. Many times it was referred to as a "dining parlor" because of its combined use as a space for eating and for relaxing and even informal entertaining between mealtimes. It functioned much like a family room does today. An example of such a dining room can be seen in the Todd House at Fourth and Walnut Streets. During the Washington occupancy of the Deshler-Morris House the

Continued on Page 43

Germantown Historic Tour
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Sponsored by
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ARTIST EXHIBIT





CANDLE MAKING ET CETERA BOOTH





ANTIQUE AUTOS



dick wainwright

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MKT. SQ.
1.
2.
3.
AVENUE
Church Lane
4.
Coulter St.
7.
Queen Lane
5.
6.
Bringhurst St.
8.
9.
GERMANTOWN
Manheim St.
Seymour St.
10.
E. Logan St.
W. Logan St.
Wyneva St.
11.
E Abbotsford St.
12.
Reading Railroad
Windrim St
18th St
13.

GERMANTOWN



1. MARKET SQUARE CHURCH — 5515 Market Square
The first church on this site was German Reformed (1733) in which Washington worshipped when he lived in the Deshler-Morris House across the street. The church is now Presbyterian and the present building the third. On exhibit will be the weather vane of the first building; a bell cast in Germany in 1725, and two angels that were above the organ in the old building. Visitors will be able to wander through the cemetery back of the church.

2. DESHLER-MORRIS HOUSE AND GARDEN — 5442 Germantown Avenue
Built by David Deshler in 1772. During the Battle of Germantown (October 4, 1777) was the headquarters of British General Howe. During the yellow fever epidemic (1793) and again in 1794, the residence of George Washington, and the nation's oldest "White House." Long the residence of the Morris Family. Completely restored by the National Park Service, 1975-1976. Magnificent colonial garden.

3. FRIENDS FREE LIBRARY — 5418 Germantown Avenue
Here will be displayed the first Anti-Slavery Proclamation issued in Germantown in 1688; the Irvin C. Poley Drama Exhibit, and hidden pictures from the collection of the Germantown Historical Society.

4. ST. LUKE'S CHURCH AND BURIAL GROUND — 5411 Germantown Avenue
The first Episcopal parish in Germantown (1811). First building, 1818; present building 1876. Many prominent citizens of early Germantown are buried in the churchyard.

5. CLARKSON-WATSON HOUSE — 5275 Germantown Avenue
Residence of Thomas Jefferson (Secretary of State) and Edmund Randolph (Attorney General) during yellow fever epidemic of 1793. Home of the National Bank of Germantown 1825-1868 (now the Germantown Office of the Girard Bank). Home of John Fanning Watson, noted local annalist. Now houses the outstanding costume collection of the Germantown Historical Society depicting American dress from 1700.

6. GRUMBLETHORPE — 5267 Germantown Avenue
Built by John Wister in 1744 as a summer home, and became the homestead of the Wister Family for more than 200 years. The house has been restored to its original appearance. British General Agnew, mortally wounded during the Battle of Germantown, died here.

7. SAUR HOUSE AND TRINITY CHURCH - 5300 Germantown Avenue
Only house remaining that once belonged to the colonial printers, Christopher Saur, Sr. and Jr. The oldest wing dates from 1723. In the cellar, beginning in 1772, was the first successful printing-type foundry in the Colonies. On display will be a copy of the first Bible printed in the Colonies in a European language (1743) and a copy of the first Saur almanac (1738). Trinity Church (Lutheran) was built in 1856 and is the second building on the site. Noteworthy are its windows and spire housing Germantown's first town clock and bell.

8. GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMPLEX — 5208-5218 Germantown Avenue
The Howell House, 5218 Germantown Avenue, built in 1795, houses the toy and quilt collection, and has been called "the finest small museum of its kind." The Conyngham-Hacker House, 5214 Germantown Avenue, built in 1772, houses the museum of the Society.
The Baynton House, 5208 Germantown Avenue, built in 1802, is the location of the Library of the Society, distinguished for its collection of Germantown histories and genealogies. On display will be manuscripts and publications of Edwin C. Jellett and Thomas Meehan, botanists and horticulturists who lived in Germantown in the 19th century.
DON'T MISS the Bake Sale Booth, and
DON'T MISS the Used Book and Publications Booth.

9. ROYAL HOUSE — 5112 Germantown Avenue
Built in 1798 and occupied for many years by the Royal Family. Here there will be an exhibit of works of art by local artists, and a children's art corner.
DON'T MISS refreshments here.

10. LOWER BURIAL GROUND — 4901 Germantown Avenue
Also known as the Hood Cemetery. Presented to the Borough of Germantown in 1693 by Jan Streepers. Earliest known marker, 1707. Burial place of many early settlers. Gravestone of British General Agnew.

11. GERMANTOWN THEATRE GUILD AND GARDEN — 4821 Germantown Avenue
The barn of the Mehl House (the house built in 1744 will not be open) is now the home of the Free Theatre of Germantown (built about 1745). Here there will be exhibits of mask making, puppet making,

12. LOUDOUN — 4650 Germantown Avenue
Built in 1801 at the top of Neglee's Hill by Thomas Armat who had come to Germantown from Loudoun County, Virginia. A restorer's dream, with many of the original furnishings preserved intact, Loudoun is a fine example of a turn-of-the-century mansion. Here there will be an exhibit of candle making, and a display of antique automobiles.
DON'T MISS The Et Cetera Booth.

13. STENTON HOUSE AND GARDEN — 18th and Courtland Streets
Historically and architecturally one of Philadelphia's famous houses, built over a period of years (c. 1728) by James Logan, Secretary to William Penn. Headquarters of British General Howe before the Battle of Germantown. The gardens are beautiful, and don't miss the recently restored barn and shop.

FREE PARKING:
On the streets.
The parking lots of Germantown Friends School and Trinity Lutheran Church.
On the grounds of Loudoun and Stenton.

Note: FLAT HEEL SHOES ARE REQUESTED
TO ELIMINATE DAMAGE TO OLD FLOORS
Thank You!

Come to Our Pre-Tour Party

We cordially invite all members and friends of our Society to meet the artists whose work will be on display (a special exhibit) at 5112 Germantown Avenue during the Germantown Historical Society's House Tour on May 22nd.
Time — May 21st — 5 to 7 P.M.
Place — Loudoun, 4650 Germantown Avenue
Parking on property
Admission — $3.00
Send reservations and check made out to Germantown Historical Society to H. M. Comly, 615 Vernon Road, Phila., Pa. 19119

Tour Special Events

Tickets - Write Mr. R. Stutzman, 6026 Germantown Ave., Phila., Pa. 'Phone: VI-8-1690 (zone 19144)

Parking - Lots of Germantown Friends School Trinity Luthern Church and Girard Bank

Events Same as Nos. on Map	
1	Market Square beneath Monument — Floyd Singers (Spirituals) In case of rain — Market Square Presbyterian Church Museum Complex — Front lawn
2	Deshler-Morris House & Garden — Herb sale
3	Friends Free Library — Irvin C. Poley Drama Exhibit, Hidden pictures from collection of Germantown Historical Society, Paper-making by students from Roosevelt Middle School. In case of rain paper-making inside Library.
8	Germantown Historical Society Complex — Howell House — Toy and Quilt exhibit Conyngham — Hacker House — Museum Collections including Anti-slavery Proclamation Baynton House — Society's Library — display of Manuscripts and publications of Edwin C. Jellett and Thomas Meehan, noted botanists and horticulturists. Bake sale at Howell House — Used books and Publications of Society at Baynton House
9	Royal House — Local artists exhibit & children's art corner.
11	Germantown Theater Guild & Garden — Mask and Puppet Making.
12	Loudoun — display of antique automobiles, candle-making and "Et Cetera" Booth
13	Stenton — Garden

Society's Garden Party

The Germantown Historical Society's Annual Garden Party is again scheduled for June and is to be held at the Deshler-Morris House (The Germantown White House). Date, time and details regarding program will be announced to our members in the near future.

Henry W. Johnson, Chairman
Meetings Committee

What Did Little Folks Play With in Colonial Times?

By M. Bacon Bostwick

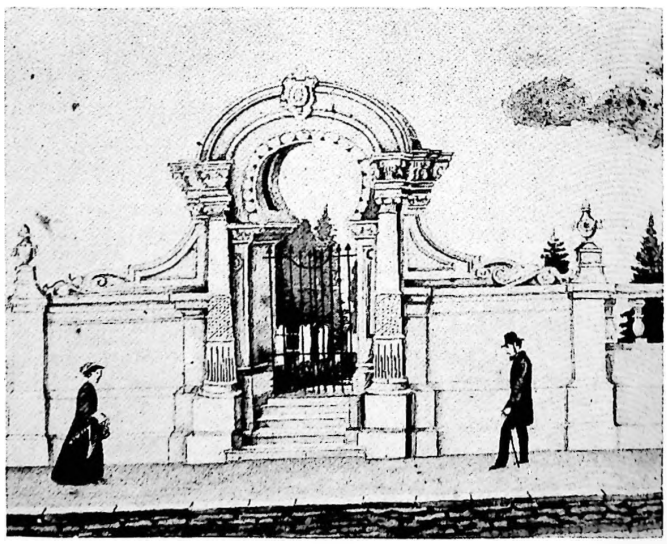
Their one ambition was to do things like their parents.

The boys, as soon as they were big enough, helped father around the farm or shop. There were blocks of wood to build things with. They also tried their strength competing in tug-of-war games and their skill whittling.

The little girls had ragdolls of sorts and some made of corn husks which were the pride of the young mothers. Copying what Mother did was a great source of amusement. At an early age girls were taught to sew and as we know left behind them many beautiful samplers showing their adeptness with a needle.

Maybe in the evening Father or a beloved handyman might carve an animal for the boys and a piece of furniture for the girls while he told them tales of adventure or perhaps a ghost story before they went to bed.

Sunday was a day of rest for all. After services children were told Bible stories and all too soon the day came to an end when the children were snugly tucked in bed.



LOWER BURIAL GROUND
Logan Street & Germantown Avenue

Presented to the Borough of Germantown in 1693 by Jan Streepers

Tulpehocken Street and the Founding of Christ Church, Germantown

By MARK F. LLOYD

This is the first of a two-part article — second will appear in "Summer" issue with full footnotes including those indicated by small figures in the following. Editor

The origin of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Germantown (now Christ Church and St. Michael's) may be found in an interesting dual context in the Germantown of the early 1850's. The broader aspect of the developments which led to the founding of the church was the emergence of Germantown in the late 1840's and early 1850's as Philadelphia's first suburb and perhaps the first true suburb of any city in America. The rise of the modern suburban idea — to conduct one's business in the crowded urban center, but to make one's home in a relaxed, outlying district, commuting daily between the two — was first made possible by the railroads. And Germantown was one of America's pioneering communities in railroads.

The Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad Company (later the Reading Railroad Co.) opened a line in September, 1832 which ran between the old Reading terminal at Ninth and Green Streets in center city and the Germantown terminal at Germantown Avenue and Price Streets.[1] About twelve to fifteen years later the suburban idea began to take hold. The age of modern real estate development came to quaint, old Germantown and the famous historian, John Fanning Watson, in his *Annals of Philadelphia* says that several investors began "laying out new streets, and selling lots and building cottage houses (which) attracted business men, and men of money to seek a residence for Country air, &c."[2] Watson, writing in 1856, reports "Germantown now is no longer Germantown as it was! It goes on in building fancy cottages for city business men, &c."[3]

The old farms which had fronted on Germantown Avenue and stretched back in relatively narrow strips to Chew Street or Stenton Avenue on the east and Wissahickon Avenue on the west were bought up and roads opened through them. East Rittenhouse and East Price Streets were the first, both being opened in 1847.[4] Walnut Lane was laid out in 1849 and Tulpehocken Street in 1850, Greene Street and Wayne Avenue in 1853. The thoroughfares were surveyed, graded, and curbed and the land divided into lots ranging from half to a full acre. Prosperous business men from Philadelphia readily purchased the lots and erected the fashionable Victorian-style houses which still adorn so many Germantown Streets. Germantown rapidly became an elite neighborhood, the home of many of Philadelphia's most prominent citizens. The particular context of the origin of Christ P. E. Church on Tulpehocken Street must be viewed within the greater context of fledgling and booming suburb.

Tulpehocken Street was opened in 1850 by John Fallon, an enterprising young engineer and lawyer in Philadelphia.[5] Fallon had married Susan E. Johnson, a daughter of Justus Johnson, the gentleman who had owned and farmed the sixty-one acre tract.[6] Since 1697 the land had been in the same family, five generations of farmers of which Justus Johnson was to be the last. Justus Johnson died in 1847 and left his estate in equal parts to his wife and five children. Fallon bought out the others in July, 1850 and immediately began to develop the land.[7]



CHRIST CHURCH

The original building of Christ Church, Germantown was destroyed in a hurricane in 1878. Thus the building which presently stands at Tulpehocken and McCallum Streets dates to a period later than the founding of the church described in this article. This is a drawing of the original building, constructed in 1853/4/5 and is the only known replica of that structure.

John Fallon was an interesting man whose life spanned a wide range of experiences. Born in Cadiz, Spain in 1819 he was a member of "a noble Spanish family, the founder of which, however, was originally from Ireland, emigrating to Spain after the defeat of Charles I (of England in 1646)."[8] Fallon, the noble, Irish Spaniard, was educated at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland and then emigrated to America. His first work on the western side of the Atlantic was as a

civil engineer and surveyor with the famous railroad builder, J. Edgar Thomson, laying the first track of the Georgia Railroad in and about Atlanta. In the late 1840's he came to Philadelphia and studied law with his brother, Christopher. Admitted to the Philadelphia bar, he soon parlayed his technical expertise, professional standing, and family connections into the position of representative and business agent in America for the regent Queen of Spain, María Christina de Borbón, and her husband, Duke Rianzarés. By the time of his thirtieth birthday John Fallon was a rising figure in Philadelphia business and politics.

About this time John Fallon married Susan Johnson, the daughter of an old established Germantown family. Her paternal ancestors, the Johnsons, have already been mentioned. Her mother was the former Abby Willing Morris of an old Philadelphia family of Morrises who had come to Germantown about 1812 and purchased considerable land on the east side of Germantown Avenue at High Street.[9] The Morris family was staunchly Episcopalian and had liberally supported St. Luke's P. E. Church, Germantown since its inception. One of Abby Morris' sisters, Susan, had married John S. Littell, another of St. Luke's strongest adherents. A large and handsome stained glass window dedicated to the memory of John S. Littell may still today be found in St. Luke's Church.[10] Others of the Morris family were also very active in the work of the Episcopal denomination in Germantown. More will be said of the extended family later. Suffice it to say that Susan Johnson Fallon was the product of a long established and unusually zealous Episcopalian tradition.

Soon after the purchase of the old Johnson farm John Fallon sold a half share interest in the property to his brother, Christopher,[11] and together they began to invest some of Queen Christina's money. Their first project was to erect the elegant "Queen's House" at Number Nine West Tulpehocken as an American retreat for the Queen should domestic strife in Spain (which was plentiful in the 1840's and 1850's) force her exile.[12] The house was never used, however, for that purpose. Instead it was the residence of Justus Johnson's widow, Abby Morris Johnson, and her daughter-in-law, Anna Johnson, who had been widowed at an extremely young age by Luke Johnson, one of Justus and Abby Johnson's three sons.[13] The "Queen's House" remained in the Johnson family until 1869 when the family finally abandoned the last vestige of their one hundred and seventy year old homestead.[14]

The second project of the Fallon brothers was a great deal more ambitious: The Germantown Water Company. Prior to 1850 Germantowners had obtained their water from wells, cisterns and a few popular springs.[15] But John Fallon, the engineer, realized that Paper Mill Run (Monoshone Creek), a branch of the Wissahickon Creek which ran through the very rear of the Johnson farm (and still does, along Lincoln Drive from Johnson Street on down beyond Rittenhouse Street), was capable of providing the means for regular running water in Germantown. Application was made to the State Legislature and on March 29, 1851 an Act of Assembly granted permission for the organization of the company to be called the Germantown Water Company with John Fallon as President. Using capital supplied by Queen Christina, the Fallons embarked upon construction. A dam was built across the creek at about the point where today the Walnut Lane Bridge passes over Lincoln Drive and a pumping station was built at the very end of Tulpehocken Street about where today the Tulpehocken Street Station of the commuter rail line stands. The dam created a good sized body of water extending all the way back to Johnson Street. The pumping station drove water into a 14,000 gallon tank or stand pipe which stood on the south side of Tulpehocken Street about where Number 266 West Tulpehocken stands today. The water tank was elevated one hundred twenty feet in the air and from that height forced the water to a reservoir on Allen's Lane, Mt. Airy. From the reservoir only gravity was needed as a motive force to bring running water to Germantown. The local newspaper, the *Germantown Telegraph,* reported in May, 1851 that the water pipe was at that time ready to be laid under Germantown Avenue and in August reported that the stand pipe had been erected and a satisfactory test of water pressure conducted. Thus by the autumn of 1851 running water was made available for the first time to the businesses and homes of Germantown. The Germantown Water Company was hailed as an immediate success and ultimately became one of the Fallon Brothers' shrewdest investments.

In the spring of 1852 the Fallon brothers hired Beekman Potter as the Superintendent and Secretary of the Germantown Water Company.[16] Potter was a relatively young man — thirty-seven years old — with a wife and single son.[17] He was an experienced businessman and the head of his own mercantile agency on Market Street.[18] His flair for salesmanship and his competency in administration impressed the Fallons as just the right combination for their new enterprise. Soon after taking the job Potter moved to Germantown and Tulpehocken Street. The offices of the Water Company were located directly on the southwest corner of Germantown Avenue and Tulpehocken Street where the fast food chain restaurant is today and that became Beekman Potter's business address.[19]

Beekman Potter, like John and Susan Fallon, belonged to the Protestant Episcopal church, but he was no ordinary Episcopalian. Beekman Potter was a nephew of the Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, the Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Another uncle of his was Rev. Horatio Potter, soon to be the Rt. Rev. Horatio Potter, the Bishop of the Diocese of New York. Two of his cousins, both sons of Alonzo Potter, were to become well known church figures in their own right. One was Rev. Eliphalet Nott Potter who would become the longtime President of Episcopalian Hobart College. The other was the Rt. Rev. Henry Codman Potter who would succeed his uncle as Bishop of the Diocese of New York and by the turn of the twentieth century be perhaps the most well known Episcopalian of his time. Beekman Potter was a very sincere representative of one of the great American families of the cloth.[20]

Prior to his move to Tulpehocken Street Beekman Potter visited his uncle and told him of his plans of starting Germantown's second Protestant Episcopal Church. The Bishop gave his approval and the die was

cast.[21] Immediately after settling in his new home, Potter began to make inquiry with all those in the neighborhood who were interested in establishing a new Episcopal church in Germantown. A series of "general conferences and preliminary meetings"[22] followed. Several men, most notably John B. Champion and Charles L. Scott, identified themselves closely with the new movement. The two steps essential to the drive were electing a vestry and obtaining a charter. But these were more easily proposed than achieved. In a letter he wrote twenty years later, Potter explains, "this was a difficult task to accomplish in consequence of the scarcity of Episcopalians (in Germantown) not connected with St. Luke's Church, and it was owing to this difficulty, and at the request of those deeply interested in the work, that some gentlemen . . . (who were) non-residents of Germantown permitted their names to be used for the purpose of making up the vestry and obtaining a charter."[23] The evidence is plain that Christ Church, Germantown began with the efforts of a very small, but unusually dedicated group of people.

By late spring Potter believed he had gathered sufficient strength to proceed with an organization of the church. Thus he announced an organizational meeting to be held June 15, 1852.[24] It was on this day that Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Germantown began to take shape. A member and pewholder of St. Luke's Church, Germantown, Phineas E. Hamm was appointed to chair the meeting. Potter was appointed secretary. A vestry was elected as were an Accounting Warden and the Church Warden. The Secretary of the Vestry was instructed to prepare a charter for submission to the Bishop and the necessary state court. The church received its name and a set of by-laws were ordered drawn up. In sum the church was organized, at least nominally so, in a single meeting.

One of the footnotes of the history of Christ Church is that true to the picture of his founding role, this organizational meeting was held in Beekman Potter's home on Tulpehocken Street.[25] Now, remarkable as it may seem, research shows that Potter's house was Number Twenty-Nine West Tulpehocken Street,[26] the same building which Christ Church and St. Michael's purchased one hundred and seven years later to convert and use as its parish house.[27] The Aulenbach House, as it is now called, is today an indispensable part of the work and mission of Christ Church and St. Michael's just as it was a century and a quarter ago.

The original vestry, just as that of present day Christ Church and St. Michael's, numbered twelve. An introduction to these gentlemen permits a real understanding of its purpose and mood in its early days:

John B. Champion	Beekman Potter
Thomas Earp, Jr.	Alexander S. Robinson
Benjamin G. Godfrey	Charles W. Robinson
Phineas E. Hamm	Charles L. Scott
Edwin W. Lehman	George M. Troutman
Alfred R. Potter	Theodore S. Williams[28]

Of these men five were not residents of Germantown and appear to the present writer to have been little more than nominal vestrymen. Thomas Earp, Jr. was an enormously wealthy merchant who lived in Chestnut Hill and beginning in 1853 would join in the establishment of St. Paul's P. E. Church of that community.[29] Benjamin G. Godfrey lived in center city Philadelphia and though a young man was an established silk goods merchant on Bank Street.[30] Edwin W. Lehman, like Godfrey, was a young, successful dry goods merchant. He lived on Arch Street.[31] Alfred Potter was Beekman's brother and he lived on 17th Street.[32] George M. Troutman, like Thomas Earp, Jr., was a very wealthy businessman. He was the Cashier of the Western Savings Bank at 4th and Chestnut and lived at 6th and Arch.[33] All five of these men lent their aid to Christ Church, Germantown in order to help secure its charter. These were the men to whom Beekman Potter made reference in his letter quoted above and their presence on the original vestry may be directly attributed to his extraordinary recruiting effort. Though instrumental in the official establishment of the church, none of these men had a lasting interest or influence in the parish.

Phineas E. Hamm was an interesting man, the "Clerk" or "Assistant" to the City Treasurer of the City of Philadelphia. He lived on School House Lane in Germantown and, as has previously been noted, was an active member of St. Luke's Church in Germantown. Hamm was apparently an Episcopalian with a great interest in establishing new churches. After sitting on the first vestry of Christ Church, he would be elected to the first vestry of both the Grace P. E. Church, Mt. Airy in May, 1858[34] and the Calvary P. E. Church in southwest Germantown in November, 1858.[35] Later, because of the reputation he gained and because he had chaired the June 15, 1852 organizational meeting of Christ Church, some erroneously credited him for founding Christ Church![36] There can be no doubt that he was an active, dedicated churchman. But Phineas Hamm was not at the heart of the Christ Church movement.[37]

Six men, an even half, comprised the real nucleus of the proposed church. John B. Champion and Charles L. Scott have already been mentioned as two men who rapidly came to the fore of the new church movement. Champion, next to Beekman Potter, was the most central figure. He had been a real estate broker in Philadelphia during the 1840's, but in 1850/1 had moved to Germantown and begun a paper manufacturing business. He lived on Walnut Lane in the house now numbered 229 West Walnut Lane.[38] It was John B. Champion whom the other men had elected Christ Church's first accounting warden.[39] Charles L. Scott was a salesman for a firm on Market Street and later would do business as a wholesale baker. His family would soon move to the house presently numbered 66 West Tulpehocken Street.[40] It was in combination with Champion and Scott that Beekman Potter carried out the earliest church activities. Theodore S. Williams was a man of high profile in Germantown, an M.D. with offices on Germantown Avenue at Armat Street.[41] His was an influential presence in the early years of the church.

Beside Beekman Potter himself the other two vestrymen were Alexander S. and Charles W. Robinson. They must be grouped with Potter because they were his brothers-in-law: Beekman had married Eliza Ann Robinson, a younger sister of Alexander and Charles.[42] Charles W. Robinson was a lawyer who drew up deeds, mortgages and other legal papers, a

'conveyancer' in the terms of the Victorian age. He lived on Tulpehocken Street in the house presently numbered 53 West Tulpehocken, next door to the house which would become and is today the rectory of Christ Church and St. Michael's.[43] Alexander S. Robinson owned a mirror and frame shop at Ninth and Chestnut Streets. He and another Robinson sister, Caroline, lived in the same house with Beekman and Eliza.[44] Thus the two Robinson families, the Potter family and the Scott family formed quite a little group of Christ Church adherents in the first block of West Tulpehocken Street.

During Christ Church's first few months, Beekman Potter was clearly the driving force behind the entire effort.[45] Additional meetings were conducted in his home and he worked diligently during the summer of 1852 to secure the cooperation of several other men and women in Germantown in forming a Sunday School and determining a regular place of worship. In early August, 1852 Potter and Champion approached the Mennonite congregation in Germantown and asked if their building at Germantown Avenue just above Herman Street might be made available to the fledgling Episcopal church.[46] The Mennonites not only offered their building, but did so rent-free, an act of sincere charity which very much surprised and impressed the Episcopalians. On Sunday, August 15, 1852 services were for the first time held in the Mennonite building.[47] On the same day Potter himself opened the Sunday School. He was named its Superintendent and was proud of his corp of six teachers and seventeen students. It was a small beginning, but Beekman Potter considered this day, and and in many respects it was, the day of the origin of Christ Church, Germantown.

During the weeks which followed the first services two new men made their first appearance in the history of Christ Church. These were Charles Le Boutillier and Thomas H. Powers. These two men are more significant in the history of Christ Church than any of the others previously discussed save, perhaps, Beekman Potter. A general introduction to both is in order.

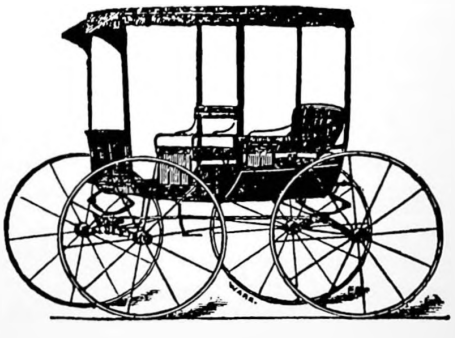
Charles Le Boutillier was a retail dry goods merchant in partnership with his brother, Thomas, at Ninth and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia.[48] He and his brother were natives of England, but had come to America in 1837 and set up their business in Philadelphia in February, 1840[49] The business had prospered and by 1850 both men were living comfortably. During the ensuing decade not only were they able to establish branch stores in New York City and Cincinnati, but both were able to build fine new houses in the suburbs. Charles purchased an acre of land on East Washington Lane just above Musgrave Street and made his home there (the same land is now occupied by Roosevelt Middle School of the Philadelphia Public School System).[50] He immediately became active in Christ Church and soon became recognized as one of the church leaders. He was a young middle-aged man and on the rise. Charles Le Boutillier would be at the center of affairs at Christ Church for the next thirty-five years.

Thomas H. Powers was an immensely wealthy man, a founding partner in the drug manufacturing firm of Powers, Weightman, and Harrison at 9th and Parrish Streets.[51] This was the same firm which later merged with the George D. Rosengarten & Sons firm of the same trade. As Powers, Weightman, and Rosengarten their headquarters were at a large plant at the Falls of the Schuylkill. It was one of the early giants in the drug industry and though it merged in 1927 with Merck, Sharp & Dohme,[52] Powers, Weightman, and Rosengarten is a familiar name even today to many Philadelphians. Thomas Powers, in addition to his great wealth, was a very serious churchman. He was always ready to support the expansion of the church and like Phineas Hamm would serve on the first vestry of both the Grace P. E. Church, Mt. Airy and the Calvary P. E. Church, Germantown.[53] Powers took his theology seriously and considered himself "an orthodox evangelical" in his Christian witness.[54] Like Le Boutillier, he was to be central to the history of Christ Church for the next quarter century.

One particular aspect of the new church which certainly attracted Powers and, as later events would reveal, was favored also by Le Boutillier, was the stance on theology and churchmanship taken by its founders. A sentence taken from the statement of purpose of the founding group reads as follows:

> "Early in the summer of 1852 a few Episcopalians, actuated by the laudable desire of promoting the spread of Evangelical Religion, and at the same time, of extending the Church of our affections, set on foot the plan of establishing a second parish in this place."[55]

The key phrase here is "the laudable desire of promoting the spread of Evangelical Religion." It was in the early 1850's that the Protestant Episcopal Church in America was just beginning to feel a delayed reaction to the Oxford Movement (also called the Tractarian Movement or Catholic Revival) which had begun in England in 1833.[56] Many Episcopalians had divided into parties of conflicting points of view. One side was known as the Anglo-Catholic or sometimes (and apparently erroneously) High Churchman Movement. The other was called Evangelical or Low Church, though perhaps it was more nearly an Evangelical/Low Church alliance. Though the vehement dispute between the two factions produced only a single and minor schism in the national Episcopal church, it nonetheless created a great deal of turmoil and distress in many local parishes. As the controversy seems to have figured in the founding itself of Christ Church, a cursory examination of the issues will prove helpful.



Germantown Wagon

Continued from Page 35
dining room would have been used for both formal and informal dinners for the Presidential family's political associates and friends. The reader is referred to Henry Sargent's painting, *The Dinner Party,* which gives an excellent example of dining in the Federal style. Although the locale pictured is Boston and the furnishings date the scene to the late Federal period, this genre painting of several gentlemen relaxing over fruit and wine after the main meal is an excellent aid to envisioning a dessert course at the Washingtons'. William MacLay has provided a primary description of a Presidential dinner:

> It was a most solemn dinner ever I sat at. Not a health drank; scarce a word said until the cloth was taken away. Then the President, filling a glass of wine, with great formality drank to the health of every individual by name round the table. Everybody imitated him, charged glasses and such a buzz of "health sir," and "health Madam,": and "thank you sir," and "thank you Madam," never had I heard before. Indeed, I had liked to have been thrown out in a hurry; but I got a little wine in my glass, and passed the ceremony. The ladies sat a good while, and the bottles passed about; but there was a dead silence almost. Mrs. Washington at last withdrew with the ladies.
>
> I expected the men would now begin, but the same stillness remained. The President . . . now and then said a sentence or two on some common subject, and what he said was not amiss . . . We did not sit long after the ladies retired. The President rose, went upstairs to drink coffee; the company followed. I took my hat and came home.

Apparently even the lubrication of alcohol could not compensate for Washington's taciturnity. Wine flowed much more freely at the eighteenth-century table than it does today. Keeping the spirits chilled at the table presented a problem until the President discovered, through his good friend, Gouvernor Morris, a wine cooler in which the bottle rested on a bed of ice. Washington requested that his friend (who was in Paris) send him several of the Sheffield coolers large enough to carry three and four bottles at a time, thereby also eliminating the need to pass individual bottles back and forth at the table. The eighteenth century was the era of the two-bottle man, who, having consumed that amount of wine could leave the table under his own power. In a conversation recorded between George III and Lord Northington, the King is reputed to have told his Canchellor, "They tell me that you love a glass of wine." Northington quickly replied, "Those who have informed your Majesty have done me great injustice; they should have said a bottle."

By the Federalist period, the many factors that composed the American identity had congealed into a definite personality. The long years of separation from their mother countries had given Americans a sense of individualism. "We see with other eyes, we hear with other ears; and think with other thoughts than those we formerly used . . . Every corner of the mind is swept of its cobwebs . . .," wrote Thomas Paine. Americans were taking the thoughts and forms of their European antecedents with a selective vision that adapted old ideas to new uses. Moreover, they were developing their own solutions to problems that would eventually lead to new schools of thought. By the time it was built, the Deshler-Morris House was a great country house in the American — not English — tradition. It could be described with the same words that the Marquis de Chastellux used to immortalize William Peter's home, Belmont: "A tasty little box in the most charming spot nature could embellish."

TREASURES SOMETIMES MISSED

By SUE JOHANSEN

Thomas Eakins, Robert Henri Benjamin West and Thomas Sully: these names are all closely associated with Philadelphia's rich artistic tradition. The indigenous artist whose work commanded the highest price ever paid at auction, however, is not mentioned above. Surprisingly, it was "Washington and his generals at Yorktown 1781" by James Peale which sold for $315,000 in London last spring. Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Grace Patterson Turnbull, four James Peale portraits are exhibited at the Germantown Historical Society's main museum located at 5214 Germantown Avenue.

Younger brother of the celebrated American artist Charles Willson Peale, James was born in Chestertown, Maryland in 1749. As was the case with most eighteenth century craftsmen, James became skilled in several trades. Apprenticed to a saddler in his youth, he later mastered carpentry. His woodworking abilities proved most valuable; this skill enabled him to create frames for Charles' paintings in return for lessons in oil and watercolor painting.

James' early style is barely distinguishable from his mentor's. An excellent example of a man of the "Age of Reason," Charles Willson Peale's paintings reflect his pragmatic belief that "a good mind is like rich soil where only the proper planting and cultivation are needed to produce the desired fruition." Thus through rigid attention to detail both Peales sought to record a realistic likeness of their sitter. After 1795, however, James developed a more individual style; his paintings became more romantic and lyrical than his brother's. As his eyesight failed James gave up his specialization in miniature painting that he had undertaken in 1786 and devoted the remainder of his artistic career to still life painting. Although it is estimated that he painted over one hundred still lifes, only thirty-five have been located. It is his role in the establishment of the American tradition of still life painting for which James Peale is best known.

He outlived his brother by four years, dying in Philadelphia in 1831.

Gifts to Society's Library

It is a pleasure to announce the following additions to the Society's Library in the Baynton House at 5208 Germantown Avenue.

"American Quilts and How to Make Them" by Carter Houck and Myron Miller. There are several quilts described in this book now in our collection of quilts on exhibit in the Howell House section of the Society's Museum.

"Historical Needlework of Pennsylvania" by Margaret B. Schiffer. German needlework and Germantown itself are mentioned several times.

"Urban Village" by Stephanie Grauman Wolf. A demographic study of population and community and family structure in Germantown from 1683 to 1800.

"Philadelphia Preserved" by Richard Webster. (A catalog of the Historical Building Survey.) A considerable part of this definitive book is devoted to historic buildings in Germantown.

"The Liberty Bell's Sister" by the Rev. Louis A. Rongione, OSA. An unusual and interesting history of this bell which is now in the possession of Villanova University.

"East Falls' by Lois and Fred Childs. A three-hundred-years history of East Falls, from 1650 to 1950.

"Philadelphia in Motion" by J. W. Boorse, Jr. A nostalgic view of how Philadelphia traveled.

"Chestnut Hill" by Willard S. Detweiler, Inc. An architectural history prepared for the Chestnut Hill Historical Society.

"Directory of Libraries and Information Sources in the Philadelphia Area." Compiled by the Philadelphia Chapter of Special Libraries Association.

"Archives Catalog" by John Daly. A very valuable guide to the archives in Philadelphia City Hall.

"Photographic Collection in the Philadelphia City Archives." A subject index of the 60,000 prints and an equal number of negatives dating from 1850.

"The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography" edited by Eugene E. Doll. A vital index to Volumes 1 to 75 of this journal now in our Society's Library.

The Library is open Tuesdays from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. and by appointment. Librarian can be reached in the morning at GErmantown 8-3659.

Leonard Rossiter Denis
Librarian

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The Germantown Historical Society

Privileges of membership include attendance at all lectures, tours, and other functions sponsored by the Society.

It is the Society's aim, in conjunction with other civic groups, to preserve and protect the existing evidence of Germantown's great past. Interested persons may obtain further information by writing to the Chairman of the Membership Committee.

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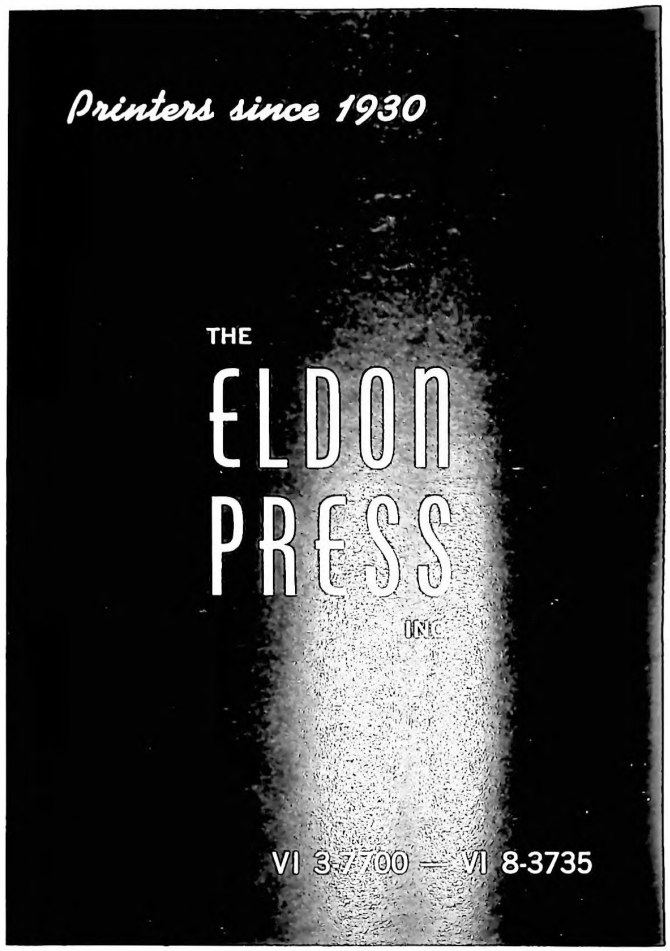
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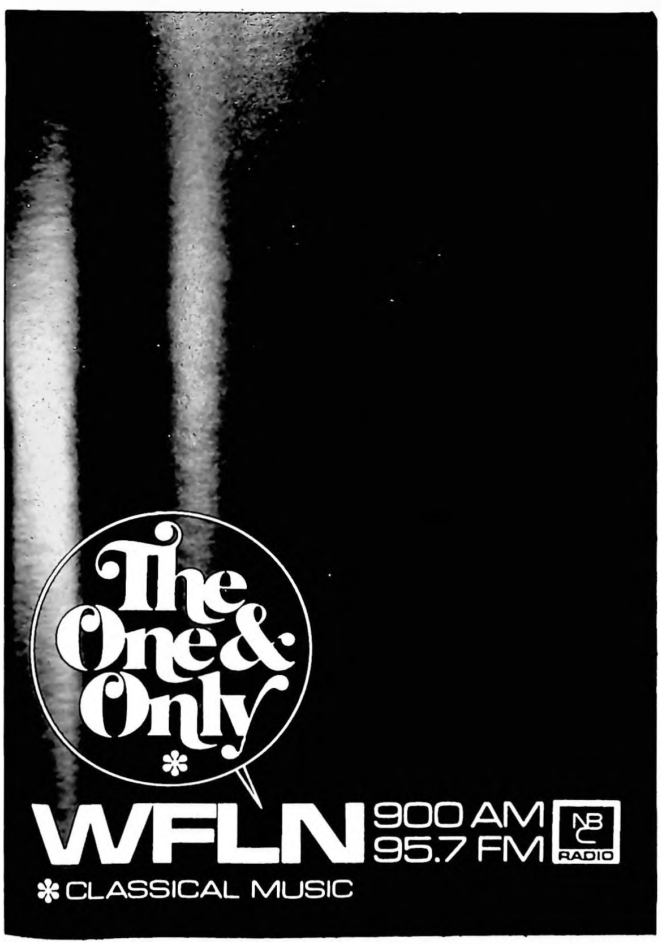
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