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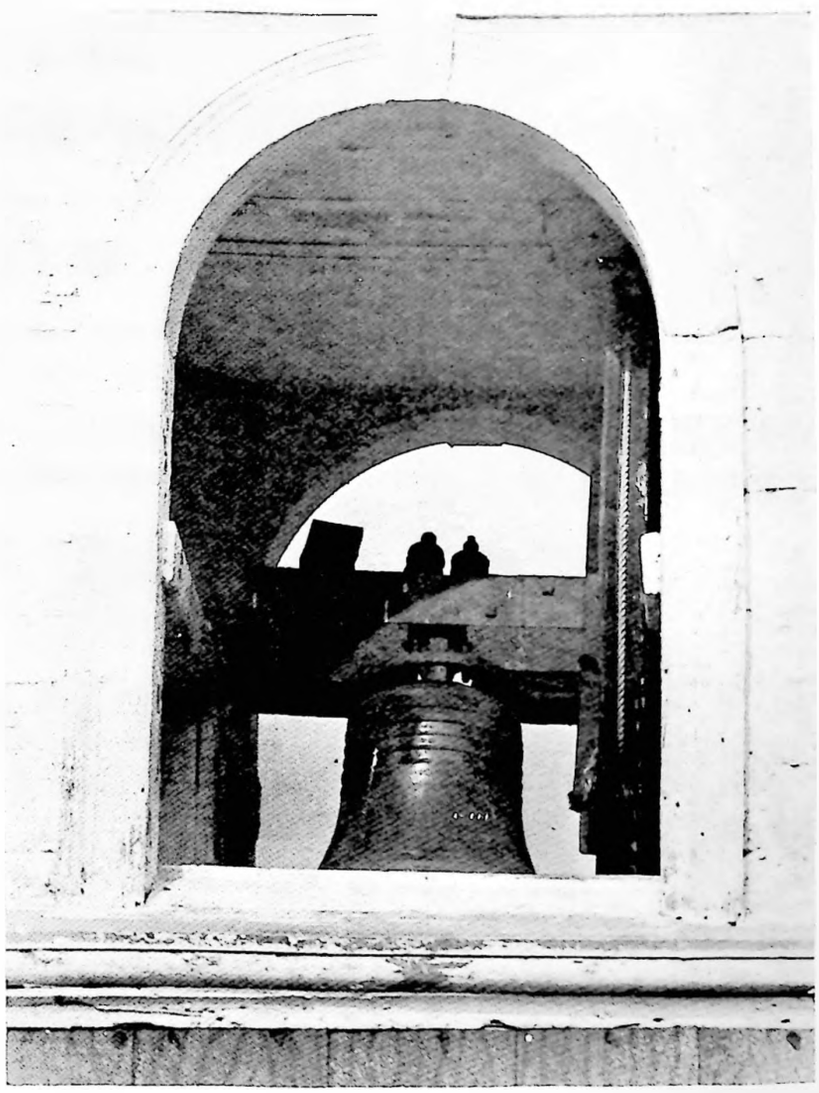


Photo by Michael Boggs

Close-up of belfry of Germantown-Stevens Academy showing bell attached to its original hardware. Bell rope hung through a hole in the upstairs ceiling of main classroom building in full view of Headmaster's office. With removal of offices to Kershaw Hall, bell rope was placed behind a locked door in the attic.

See Page 41

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Volume 27 **SPRING, 1975** **Number 2**

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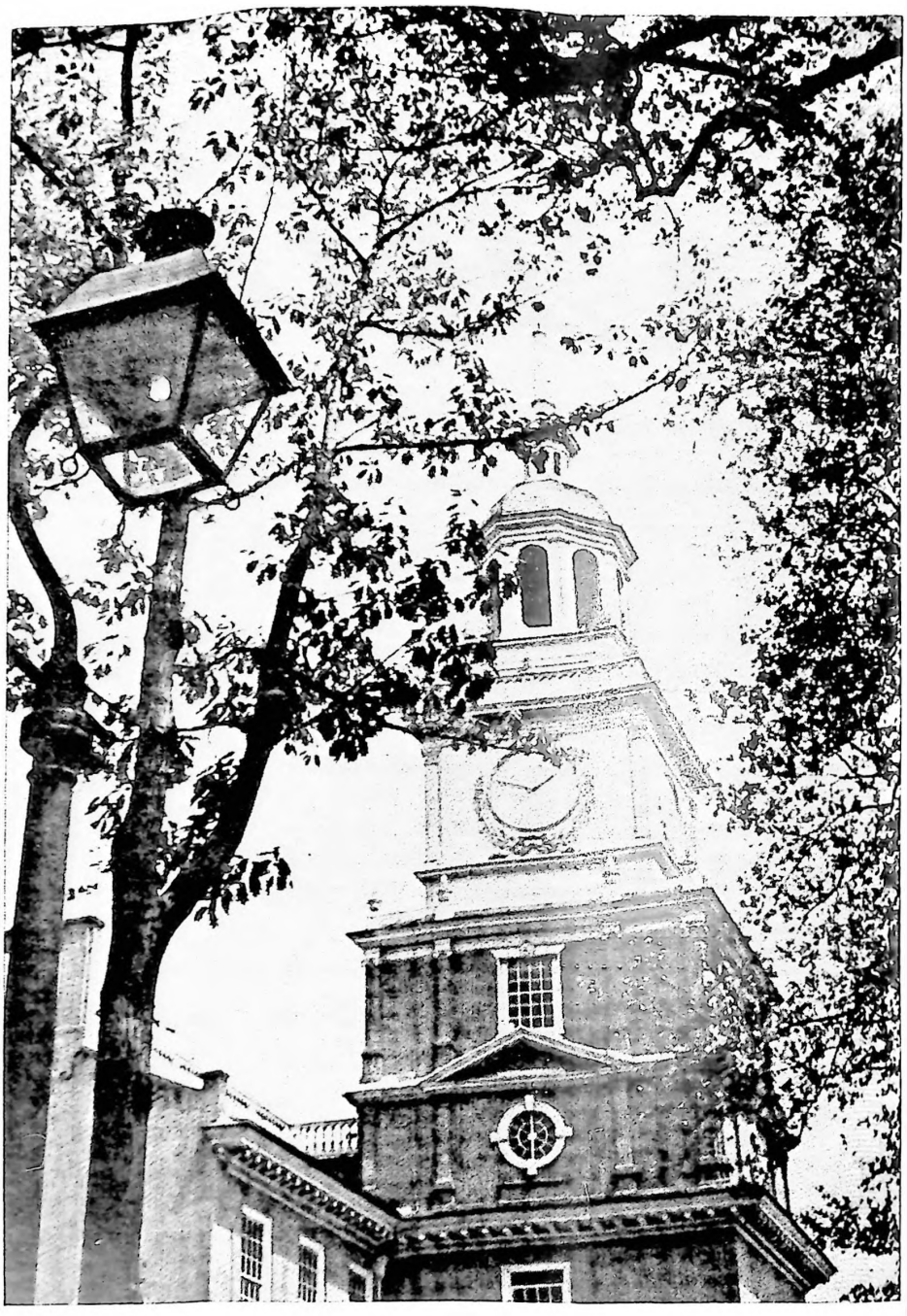
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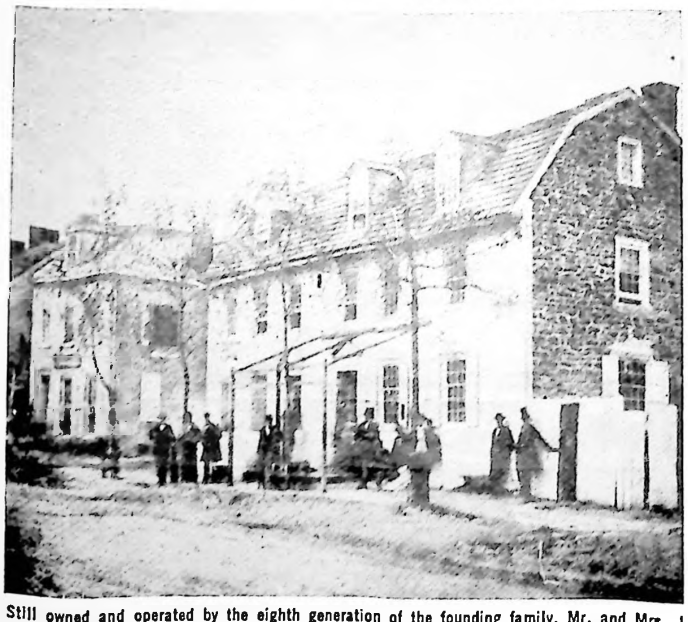
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Bell, Chariot, and Tea

By Lucy M. Brusic

THE BELL that hangs in the belfry of Germantown-Stevens Academy was a "guest" at Philadelphia's genteel version of the Boston Tea Party—and was thereby ten years late for its appointment in Germantown. It was part of the cargo on Philadelphia's tea ship, the *Polly*, that arrived here late in 1773.

The bell was ordered, probably early in 1772, by Thomas Wharton, a prominent Quaker merchant, who from 1761–1766 had been a Trustee of the Germantown Union School—predecessor institution of Germantown Academy whose old site is now occupied by Germantown-Stevens Academy. Thomas Wharton (b. 1731) was the eldest son of Joseph Wharton.[1] A man of great wealth and influence, he was a close friend of Joseph Galloway—also a Trustee of the Germantown Union School from 1761–1769. Wharton was in fact a patron of Galloway and William Goddard in the establishment in 1767 of "The Chronicle", a newspaper whose branch of politics forced Goddard to declare bankruptcy in 1773.

Notwithstanding the fact that Wharton had corresponded with Benjamin Franklin, dined with George Washington, and even signed the non-importation agreement in 1765, he, like many Quakers, withdrew his support from the Revolutionary cause when it became apparent that the colonists would resort to armed force.

Thomas, who with his brother Isaac (b. 1745) was a consignee of the tea on the *Polly*, had probably negotiated the bell through another brother, Samuel (b. 1732), who went to England in 1769 with the hope of becoming the governor of the Indiana Province whose capitol was to be at the junction of the Great Kanhawha and Ohio Rivers (site of modern day Mt. Pleasant, W. Va.).

Samuel represented the firm of Messrs. Baynton, Wharton and Morgan who had received western land from the Indians in exchange for damages of £40,000

1. Thomas Wharton of this account should not be confused—as he has been by several historians of the Academy property—with his first cousin, also named Thomas, who was four years his junior, having been born in 1735. The younger Thomas, often designated Thomas Wharton, Jr. (and so called here) rose to political prominence when he was elected president of the provincial Committee of Safety in 1774. In this position, it was Thomas Jr. who exiled his senior cousin to Virginia in 1777. Thomas Jr. died an early and much lamented death of quinsy in 1778.



This unusual photograph of the bell was taken in 1965 when a casting was made for Germantown Academy at Fort Washington. The inscription reads "CAST BY LEWIS DEBOZEAR PHILADA 1834."

to merchandise belonging to the company. He came very close to "kissing the King's hand" on the agreement that he should be the governor of the new province; in fact, a correspondent wrote in March 1773, "Mr. Wharton will be appointed governor in a few days." But disclosure of revolutionary correspondence between Wharton and Benjamin Franklin put an end to Samuel's dreams of political appointment. He fled to France and did not return to America until 1779.

In addition to the school bell, Thomas also asked his brother to order for him a "chariot", befitting, one assumes, his station in the society of pre-revolutionary Philadelphia.[2]

2. Du Simitière's List of Carriage Owners in Philadelphia in 1772 lists one Thomas Wharton "Quaker merchant" as the owner of a "coach-wagon." According to Du Simitière, the coach-wagon was a miscellaneous category for all kinds of buggies as distinguished from "coaches" (the most elegant conveyance of which there were only 10 in Philadelphia) and chariots, defined as a conveyance to accommodate three people with a post box for the driver. (Joseph Galloway was one of the 47 owners of these latter.) There is probably no way to find out which Thomas Wharton Du Simitière catalogued as owning a "coach-wagon", but if it is the same Thomas who ordered the bell and the chariot in 1772, then he was clearly hoping to step up to a better mode of transportation marking his rising social standing. But, alas, the days of the Tories' fortunes were numbered.

The chariot, the bell, and the tea consigned to the Philadelphia firms of Thomas and Isaac Wharton and James and Drinker were on the ship *Polly*, which, with the *Nancy* bound for New York, the *London* for Charleston and the *Dartmouth* and *Eleanor* for Boston, crossed the Atlantic in November of 1773.

As almost everyone knows, this tea—the property of the East India Company—had been tainted with a three pence a pound tax. The colonists were, of course, determined not to pay the tax; meetings were held; resolutions made. The consignees of the tea were asked to resign their offices, as was the stamp master. "A committee sought them out and by suasion and threat accomplished the object very promptly and effectually." (Oberholtzer, E. P., *Philadelphia, A History of the City and its Peoples*, Philadelphia, n.d., v. 1, p. 223).

Meanwhile other committees were formed, among them a "committee for tarring and feathering" who published a broadside November 27, 1773, warning the Delaware pilots that any "who pilots her [the *Polly*] into this Harbor . . . will experience the utmost Exertion of our Abilities." The same broadside, intended for delivery to the unsuspecting Captain Ayres still battling the stormy North Atlantic, continued "What think you Captain, of a Halter around your neck—ten Gallons of liquid tar decanted on your Pate—with the Feathers of a dozen wild Geese laid over to enliven your appearance? Only think seriously of this and fly to the Place from whence you came—fly without Hesitation— . . . and above all, Captain Ayres let us advise you to fly without the wild Geese Feathers."

It is not recorded what Captain Ayres thought about these suggestions for altering his appearance. The *Polly* with the tea and the chariot and the bell (lest we forget the subject of this article) in its hold docked at Chester on Christmas Day 1773. And, on that day, no one seems to have paid much attention. Perhaps the Philadelphians had cooled off in the month since the broadside by the committee for tarring and feathering; possibly they were preoccupied by the celebration of the season. But Paul Revere arrived in Philadelphia the next day, December 26, with news of the Bostonians' Tea Party ten days previous on December 16.

Committees were promptly dispatched to Chester and Gloucester Point to find Captain Ayres, bring him to Philadelphia, to "reason" with him if possible. He was escorted to Philadelphia by a committee of citizens and arrived in the State House yard, Monday morning, December 27, to find 8000 Philadelphians waiting "to consider what is best to be done in this alarming crisis". They resolved that the *Polly* should not proceed further up the river. The Captain would be permitted to replenish his stores, provided he, his vessel, and the tea left the next day. In a clear minority, though probably after consultation with Thomas Wharton, Captain Ayres saw the "reason" of the Philadelphians' plan. He spent the night in the city and left the next day in a pilot boat from the Arch Street wharf to rejoin his ship for the long voyage back to England.

Throughout this non-violent tea party, the bell rode quietly at anchor with the chariot and the tea. When Captain Ayres reboarded his ship December 28, 1773, and set her sails for home, the bell and the chariot went back to England too.[3]

No one seems much to have lamented the absence of the bell. Except for a single reference to the "distrest times", one hears no tocsins of the Revolution in the minutes of the Trustees of the Germantown Union School; rather they were occupied with a succession of English headmasters—one every other year—and the eternal problem of institutional finance.

But Thomas Wharton did lament his chariot "which, though it might be fit to visit Pine Street meeting in, must once more be landed in Britain, and thereby share the fate of every other article on board the ship." (*A History of the Germantown Academy*, Philadelphia, 1910, p. 98.) Indeed, the Quaker never saw his "chariot": after being arrested in 1777 on suspicion of being a Tory, exiled to Virginia until 1778, and losing his entire estate under the Confiscation Act, Thomas died in 1782, two years before the bell and the chariot came back to this country.

Tradition dictates that the bell (and the chariot) reentered the Port of Philadelphia in 1784. Mercantile trade reopened after the Treaty of Versailles in 1783, and by the middle of June 1783, 200 vessels had sailed into the Delaware. Perhaps the bell was on one of these 200 boats; perhaps its passage was delayed until 1784.

It would be fascinating to know when the bell returned to this country and who received the late Thomas Wharton's chariot; it would be instructive to learn how and when the bell was hung in the long empty belfry. But history seems determined not to divulge this information.

Cargo lists are not available. Newspapers seem not have been printed in Germantown in the confused era that immediately followed the Revolution. The Germantown Union School was itself in eclipse. There are no minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees after October 14, 1778; all the Trustees concluded their terms of office in May 1779.

The Board evidently reconstituted itself with eight returning members and twelve new ones to receive a charter as the Germantown Public School, September 15, 1784. Both the English and the German schools appear to have reopened about this time. Was the bell in place to ring for the opening of school? The

3. Writing of the bell in the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, December 26, 1933, Blanche Krause states "In 1774, it came over from England in the tea ship *Polly* whose cargo was dumped overboard in the "Boston Tea Party." The bell returned to England with the salvaged portion of the cargo". . . . While such rumors certainly enhance the bell's romantic reputation, this one has no apparent basis in fact.

first minutes of the new Board, November 1, 1784, are as silent on this question as they are on many others concerning the reorganization and reopening of the institution.

The next signal event in the life of the bell is, happily, better documented. After 50 years of service to the school and the community—ringing for 15 minutes daily prior to the opening of school and to summon people to town meetings in the classroom building—the bell was hammered thin. In December 1833, it was taken down to be recast by Lewis Debozear, a brass founder at 6 Bread Street (between Mulberry and Sassafras). Some metal was added in the recasting so that the present bell at 315 pounds is 31 pounds heavier than the old one. The cost to the Trustees was $73.20. One wonders how they afforded it, for Germantown Academy, as it was called by then, was in a very depressed state with only 30 students in the English department, 10 of whom were free scholars. There had been a rapid turnover of headmasters due to the school's unhappy financial state and low enrollment. Nevertheless the bell was rehung, probably in February 1834.

Withal, the recast bell still hangs in the original belfry above the main classroom building. As documented by the American Historic Buildings Survey in 1935, the belfry has white oak timbers secured by wooden pins. From it, for 190 years, the bell has watched the ebb and flow of the fortunes of the oldest continuously used secondary school building in the country. It is still rung for soccer victories and for the opening of each school day at Germantown-Stevens Academy.

———, *A History of The Germantown Academy*, Burbank: Philadelphia, 1910.

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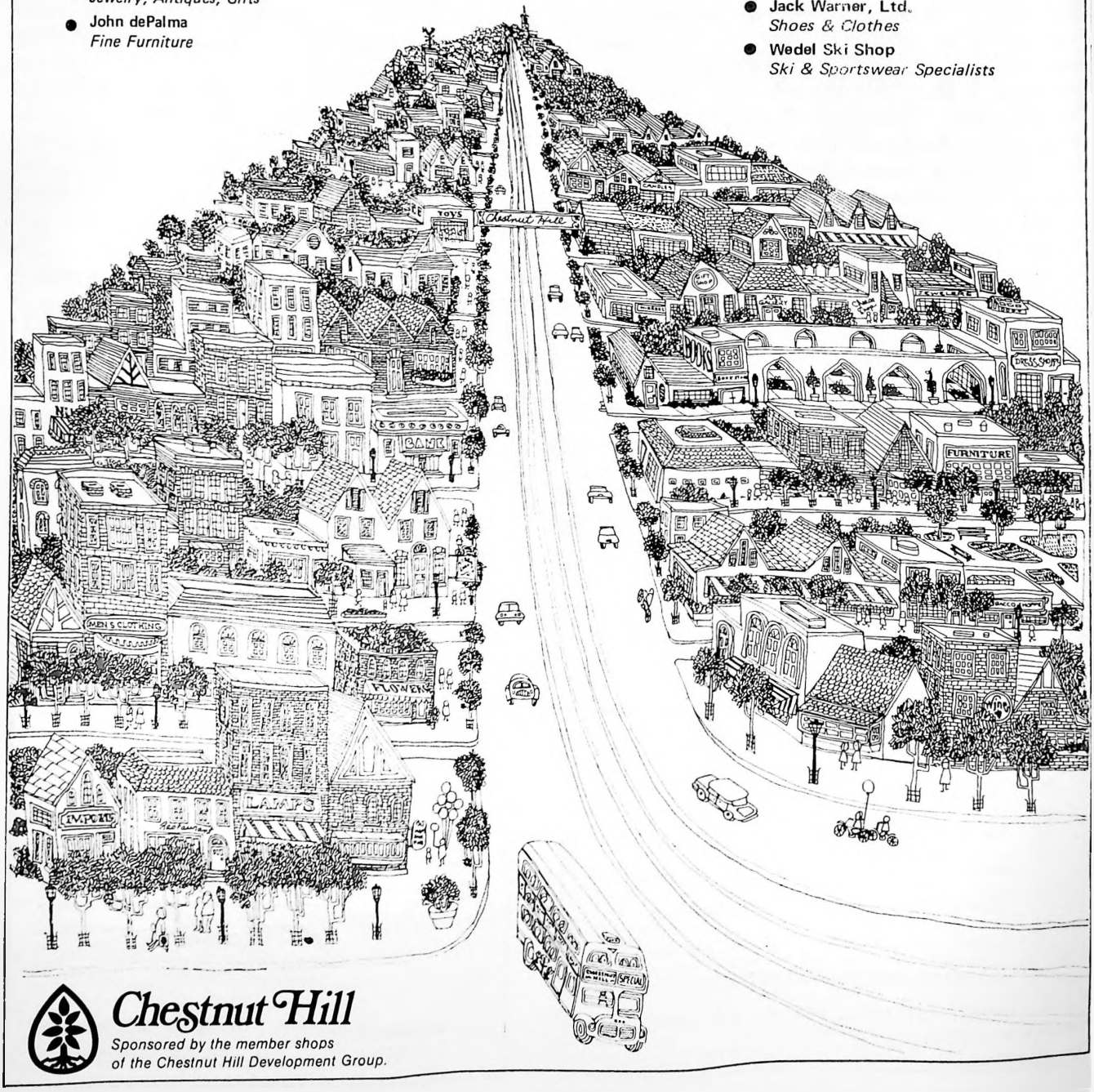
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Reprinted from the Public Ledger Almanac of January, 1881.

Abbottsford, a village east of the Schuylkill River, on the heights below the Falls of Schuylkill.

Adelphi, a small village in the western part of the county, situated on Indian Run, and less than half a mile north of Haddington. There was a mill there in 1816.

Arunnamink, a name given during the times of the Swedes to that portion of the land west of the Schuylkill south of Mill Creek, and extending out to the Karakung or Cobb's Creek. It included portions of the ground north and south of the Darby road, and was principally settled by Swedes.

Asoepek is placed on Lindstrom's map of 1654–55 west of Aleskins Kjlen (Frankford Creek), and was probably an Indian village upon the site now occupied by Frankford.

Astonville, a village on the west side of the Schuylkill, on the road from the Falls, near the intersection of the Belmont road.

Babylon, a small village about half a mile southeast of Byberry Meeting-house; the first settler was Thomas Gilbert.

Bainbridge, a "town on Second street," is mentioned in an advertisement in the *U. S. Gazette* in 1818. It was probably below the southern boundary of Southwark.

Ball Town, or *Ballton*, the name given to a village on the Delaware River, extending north from Gunners' Run up to about what was afterward called Port Richmond; so named after the Ball family, long time owners of that ground.

Bankahoe was the name of a settlement adjoining Shackamaxon; so called in Swedish deeds before the landing of Penn. It was most probably north of Shackamaxon or Kensington.

Bath Town, a settlement in the Northern Liberties, established in the year 1765, and situated near the Germantown road, between the Cohocksink Creek and the Globe Mill. John White established the cold bath in the town of Bath in the Northern Liberties in the year named, and published a long essay in the newspapers upon the virtues of cold bathing. Upon Hill's map of 1808 the town of Bath is laid down in the neighborhood mentioned. The western boundary of Bath Town was between Pitt street (afterward called St. John street) and Third street.

Bebberstown, commonly but improperly called "Beggarstown," was before the Revolution a part of Germantown, in the upper portion of the village, near the Mennonists' church. It received its name from Mathias van Bebber, an early settler and landholder in the neighborhood.

Beversrede, a fort erected by the Dutch about 1645 on the east bank of the Schuylkill River. It was so named on account of its being well situated to carry on a brisk trade in beaver-skins with the Indians. The site is conjectured to have been on the east side of the Schuylkill, about half a mile above the Penrose Ferry Bridge. Houses were soon after erected within the protection of this fort.

Branchtown, on the Old York road, near the intersection of Church lane, grew up by the building of houses adjacent to the Drover Tavern.

Bustleton, a village in Lower Dublin township, at the intersection of the road from Frankford to Newtown and of the road known as the Kensington and Oxford turnpike, running to Moreland township, Bucks county, and near the Pennepack Creek, being about three miles below Somerton or Smithfield. It grew round a tavern established before the Revolution. On the 18th of February, 1768, was advertised for sale a noted tavern known by the name of "Busseltown, late the property of Robert Greenway, Lower Dublin, Philadelphia county."

Byberry Cross-roads, at the intersection of Byberry and Bensalem turnpikes, about a mile north of Byberry Meeting-house. It was at one time called Plumbsock, and commenced with the location of the "Three Tun" Tavern at that place.

Callowhill, a town so called, projected by the Penn family about the years 1768–70, lying between Vine street and Cohoquinoque (Pegg's Run), west of Front street and extending toward the Old York road (old Fourth street). The street called New Market was opened from Vine street north to Margaretta in 1768, and for the use of the town of Callowhill the Penns dedicated the four pieces of ground at the intersection of Callowhill and New Market streets for a public market. The space was built upon after the Revolution by the Norwich Market Company. This town received its name from Hannah Callowhill, the second wife of William Penn, from whom the branch of the

family subsequently Proprietors of Pennsylvania descended.

Campington, or *Camp Town*, a name given about 1753 and afterward to that part of the Northern Liberties occupied by the British barracks for the use of the royal troops. The barracks extended from Second to Third street and from Tammany to Green. The officers' quarters were in the centre of the front on Third street, in a brick building which was afterward used as a hotel, and subsequently as the Commissioners' Hall of the Northern Liberties, and which was torn down a few years ago and replaced by the Northern Liberties Grammar School. The barracks for the soldiers were on each side of the square. The parade-ground was in the centre. It is a strange fact that long after the Revolution this name of Camp Town became changed, and was transferred from the Northern Liberties to Kensington, and was applied particularly to that portion of the latter which lay near the river and was inhabited principally by fishermen. The appellations "Camp Town," "Camp Town girls," and "Camp Town hucksters" were common in application to Kensington and Kensington people fifty years ago. Camp Town has given way to "Fish Town," applied to the same region.

Cedar Grove, a small settlement near Tacony Creek, Olney and Asylum roads.

Chestnut Hill, a name given at an early period to Somerhausen in the upper part of German township. See *Somerhausen*.

Chingihameng appears on Lindstrom's map of 1655 as a place between Wichqua Coing (Wicaco) and Fackenland. It was probably north of Coquanoc, somewhere about the upper part of the old city proper and the southern part of the Northern Liberties.

Coopersville, Twenty-fifth ward, south of the Connecting Railroad, between Front and Third streets.

Coquanoc, an Indian village, upon the site of a portion of which the old city of Philadelphia was laid out. The name is supposed to be derived from *Cuwequenaku*, "the grove of long pine trees."

Crefelt, a division of the German township, north of Somerhausen or Chestnut Hill. It extended from the latter to Streeper's Mill, where the turnpike crosses the Wissahickon to Germantown township line, and contained 1166 acres.

Crescentville, called *Grubtown* on the map of 1809, at the intersection of the Asylum road and the road to Jenkintown, south of Green lane and near Tacony Creek. The later name was chosen because the Crescent Factory was near there.

Cresheim, a division or settlement in the German township which began at the highway known in modern times as Washington lane, and went to Limekiln road, near the Mermaid Inn. It contained 884 acres, and was first built upon the main road and the Cresheim road. It occupied the territory now called Mount Airy.

Fackenland appears upon the map of Campanius as the territory below Frankford Creek, and is said by Mr. Henry to be derived from the Dutch or German, and means "fine land."

Falls Village, on the Ridge road near the Falls of Schuylkill, above Laurel Hill Cemetery and below the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek, has gradually grown in the neighborhood of the Falls Tavern and other taverns long established in the vicinity. The settlement was originally called Fort St. David's, which name was given to it in consequence of its being near the fort so called of the Fishing Company of St. David, which about the year 1747 or later was established on the east bank of the Schuylkill, in imitation of the Fishing Company of the Colony in Schuylkill, which was founded about 1732, and had its Castle on the west bank of the river near Eaglesfield. The fish-house of Fort St. David was on a rock near the eastern abutment of the Reading Railroad Bridge. The sign of Fort St. David's Fish-house was for many years that of the lower tavern at the Falls. The village was a government post-office known as Fort St. David's. The name gradually went out of use, and the "Falls of Schuylkill" was substituted; which latter may be said to have become general by the year 1830.

Feltonville, a village at the intersection of old Second street and Fisher's lane; called after the Felton family, farmers and market-gardeners at that place.

Fish Town. See *Campington*.

Five Points, a village at the intersection of Castor's road, Oxford road, and Dark Run road, north-east of Frankford.

Fort St. David's. See *Falls Village*.

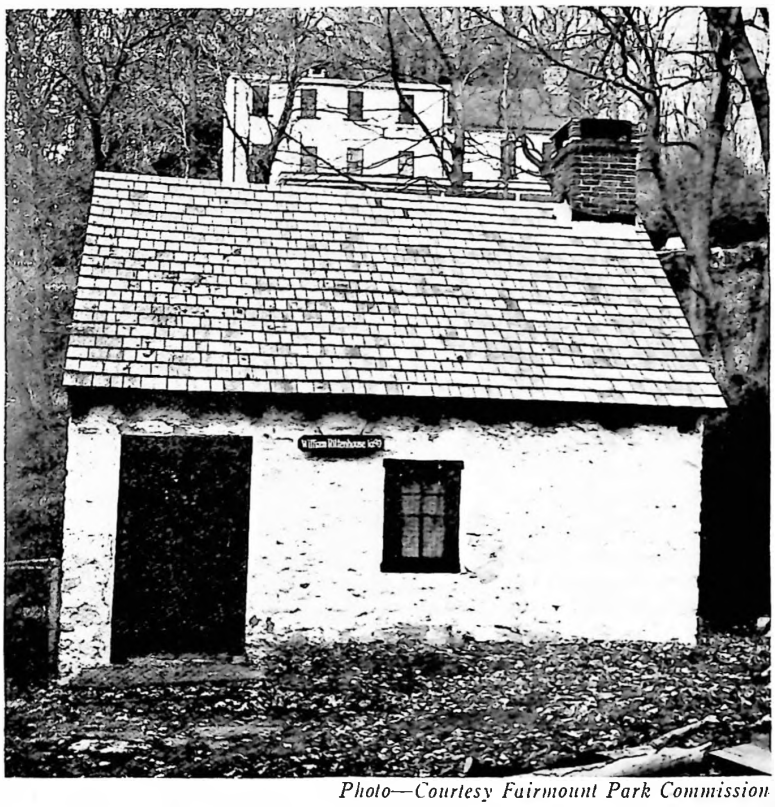
Fox Chase, a village in Dublin township, at the intersection of Asylum road and Olney road, and east of the Tacony Creek; so called from the name of an inn originally at that place.

Francisville, a tract of ground on the southwest side of the Ridge road above Vinyard lane, afterward called Francis lane, Coates street, and Fairmount avenue, was established upon the Vinyard estate, upon which Penn originally planted his vineyard, with the expectation of making wine. This property was bought by Jonathan Dickinson in July, 1718, and it came eventually into the ownership of Tench Francis, whose heirs some time after the year 1800 laid out a tract with streets running at right angles and parallel with the Ridge road, in such manner as to sadly interfere with the streets running north and south and east and west when the city grew up to that village. The original Vinyard estate was 1040 acres, and it ran from the Ridge road over to the Schuylkill River on the line of the present Fairmount avenue (formerly Coates street), and up that road to Turner's lane, and across to the Schuylkill, upon which was an eminence called "Old Vinyard Hill," afterward named by Robert Morris "The

Continued on Page 55

William Rittenhouse and the Rittenhouse House

By JEAN BYRNE



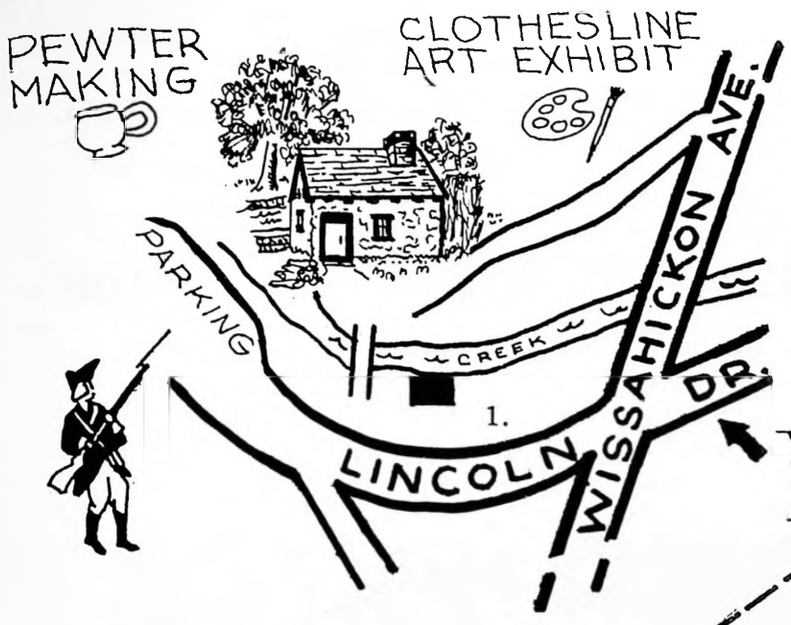
Photo—Courtesy Fairmount Park Commission

The William Rittenhouse House, the oldest (1690) unaltered dwelling house in the City of Philadelphia. It was the home of the first paper maker in the English Colonies and is now a part of Fairmount Park.

WILLIAM RITTENHOUSE (1644–1708) was born in Rhenish Prussia in the town of Mulheim. His name was spelled in many different ways; William Penn referred to him as Rittenhausen. Some genealogists have claimed that he was descended from a kinsman of the Hapsburg emperors. A Mennonite minister in Germany, Rittenhouse was also a papermaker by trade and came to America by way of The Netherlands in 1688. He settled in Germantown which had been founded five years earlier by thirteen families who were mostly weavers by trade and Mennonites by religion. As might be expected, William Rittenhouse was chosen as their first minister and, in 1703, was subsequently elected Bishop of the first Mennonite church in America by the authority of four ministers of the Hamburg congregation in Germany. However, since none of the ministers who had elected him was able to come to America to install him as Bishop, he refused to exercise the functions of that office but continued to serve as a minister. It was Rittenhouse who donated the land on which the first Mennonite church was built which is believed to be the site of the present Mennonite meeting-house at 6119 Germantown Avenue.

Shortly after settling in Germantown, he formed a company with Robert Turner (Penn's land agent), Thomas Tresse (Iron Master), and William Bradford (Philadelphia Printer) for the purpose of building a paper mill. The company leased twenty acres of land on the edge of Germantown from Samuel Carpenter for a term of nine hundred and ninety nine years, and

Continued on Page 50





TOUR BUSES WILL OPERATE ALONG GTN AVE. TO ALL POINTS OF INTEREST

1. RITTENHOUSE COTTAGE — 1707
Papermill Road and Wissahickon Drive — 207 Lincoln Drive
The Cottage was built by William Rittenhouse, who operated the first paper mill in British America. It is reminiscent of the early constitutional architecture. Rittenhouse was also the first minister of the Mennonites in 1690, when the sect settled there.

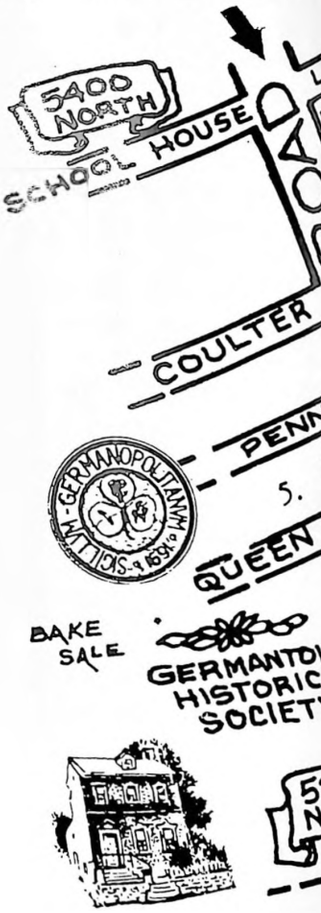
2. ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & BURIAL GROUND
5400 block of Germantown Avenue
Organized on June 28, 1811 at the home of Thomas Armat, 5450 Germantown Avenue — by Germantown's eleven Episcopal families. The original Church was built on land donated by Armat in 1818, but was replaced with the present structure in 1876.

3. CLARK-WATSON HOUSE — G.H.S. PERIOD COSTUME MUSEUM — 5275-5277 Germantown Avenue
This property was originally the Bank of Germantown from 1825 until 1869. John Fanning Watson, author of "Watson's Annals of Philadelphia," and cashier of the bank from its founding in 1814 until 1847, resided there. The beautiful costume museum of the Germantown Historical Society is located here.

4. GRUMBLETHORPE — 5267 Germantown Avenue
John Wister, a Philadelphia merchant, built this house as a summer home in 1744. This is considered one of the most important houses in Germantown, not only because of the prominence of the Wister family but also because it represents the final period in the development of the domestic architecture native to Germantown.

5. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH —
5300 Germantown Avenue
Johannes Bleeckers was the original grantee of this property in 1683. The oldest part of the house was built in 1723 by Herman Thunen. The part of the house along Germantown Avenue was built by Christopher Saur the 2nd about 1755. In 1772-1773 in the cellar of this house was cast the first printing type in America. The first bible in America was printed by Christopher Saur in German.

6. GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL-MUSEUM COMPLEX
5208-5226 Germantown Avenue
Five buildings make up this complex. All five buildings date from 1740-1772. Baynton House, which houses the library; the Conynham-Hacker House contains an extensive collection of furniture, china, documents and craft items; the Howell House is the Toy and Quilt Museum; the Endt House, scene of the First Unity Conference of German Protestant Sects; the Bechtel House is used for residential and storage purposes.





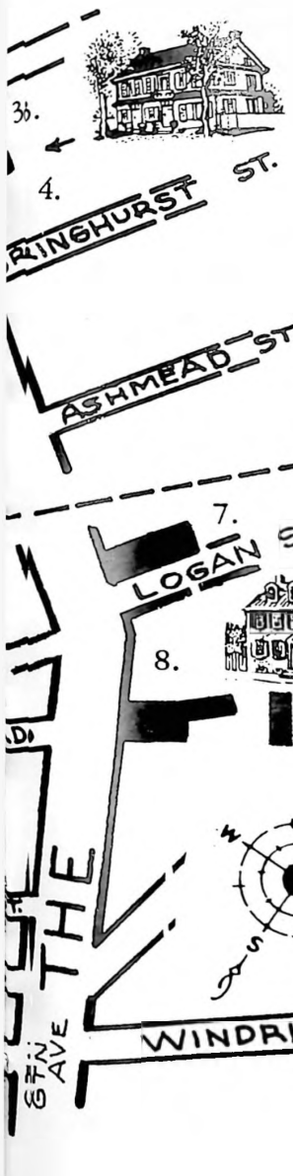
Note: FLAT HEEL SHOES ARE REQUESTED TO ELIMINATE DAMAGE TO OLD FLOORS.
Thank You!

RIC GERMANTOWN

Rain or Shine

Germantown Historic Tour
10 Colonial Homes and Gardens
Sponsored by
The Germantown Historical Society
Sunday, May 18, 1975
1 to 5 P.M.
Admission to all houses $3.00
Tickets may be purchased at each house
No single House Admissions





7. LOWER BURIAL GROUND
Germantown Avenue and Logan Street
Graves of the early settlers are found here. The oldest stone in the graveyard is that of Joseph Coulston, 1708. The yard was presented to the borough by Jan Streepers in 1693.

8. MEHL HOUSE — GERMANTOWN THEATRE GUILD
4821 Germantown Avenue — Rear of 4821
This house was built in 1744 by the Mehl family and remained in the Mehl family until shortly before the Minehart family acquired it 59 years ago. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lounsbery. The Playhouse was formerly the barn to the Mehl House.

A Children's Play will be held the day of the Tour but tickets, which are free, must be picked up in advance.

9. LOUDOUN — 4650 Germantown Avenue
This house was built about 1801 by Thomas Armat, a Philadelphia merchant, for his son, Thomas Wright Armat. It remained in the Armat family until 1939 when it was willed to the city. This house represents five generations of change in art, furniture and life.

10. STENTON — 18th and Courtland Streets
Stenton was erected by James Logan about 1728. It was built on the site of an Indian encampment. Three generations of his family lived there. During the Revolution both Washington and Howe made Stenton their headquarters for short periods of time. The present estate consists of the historic dwelling and a colonial Park.

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a mill was erected in 1690 on Monoshone Creek (later called Paper Mill Run), a tributary of the Wissahickon. William Bradford, in 1692, printed a poem by Richard Frame entitled, "A Short Description Of Pennsilvania Or A Relation Of What Things Are Known, Enjoyed And Like To Be Discovered In The Said Province". The poem, part of which follows, alludes to the mill that was built by Rittenhouse:

The Germantown of which I spoke before,
Which is at least in length one mile or more,
Where lives high German people and low Dutch,
Whose trade in weaving linen cloth is much, . . .
A paper mill near German-town doth stand,
So that the flax which first springs from the
land, etc., etc.

William Bradford moved to New York in 1693, leasing his one-fourth share to William Rittenhouse and his son, Claus, for ten years, and finally sold it to them outright in 1704. By purchasing the holdings of the other partners, William and Claus became sole proprietors by 1706. It might be interesting to note at this time that the watermark of the Rittenhouse paper was a clover-leaf with the letters "WR" and the word "Pennsilvania".

The original mill was destroyed about 1700 by a flash flood which swept away not only the building but most of the equipment as well. It so happened that William Penn was making his second visit to America at this time and, recognizing the need of the colonies for the rebuilding of this mill, started a fund for this purpose with a donation of twenty-five pounds, and urged others to "lend them aid". In 1702 a much more substantial mill was built a little farther down the stream, and this mill supplied all the American paper used in Philadelphia and New York for many years. After the death of William Rittenhouse in Germantown in 1708, the business was carried on by his son, Claus, who incidentally also became a Mennonite minister.

The Rittenhouse house at 207 Lincoln Drive is the sole remaining structure of the original building of the paper mill complex. A slate tablet in the east wall of the house bears the initials W/C R and the date 1707, although it is believed the first edition of the house may have been constructed prior to this date. The house is built of stone rather than wood which was the material most commonly used at that time. It has a shingle roof the lines of which present an interesting silhouette, and the variations in the floor levels will prove fascinating to the visitor. Another note-worthy feature is the large medieval-type fireplace that occupies almost the entire west wall of the kitchen; it is believed to be one of the largest in the State. The interior of the house contains unusual woodwork which is exceptionally well-preserved as is the wrought iron hardware.

This house, occupied first by William Rittenhouse and then by his son, Claus, was also the birthplace of David Rittenhouse, the noted astronomer, who was a great grandson of William. The house remained in the Rittenhouse family until 1890 when it was purchased by the city of Philadelphia. It is maintained by the Fairmount Park Commission as are the other four dwellings comprising "Rittenhouse Village", all dating from the late seventeenth and earlier eighteenth centuries.

Bibliography

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Dictionary of American Biography—Volume xv
The Beginnings of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania—Grant Miles Simon
Wissahickon Valley Within The City of Philadelphia—Francis Burke Brandt
Old Historic Germantown—Naaman Henry Keyser
John McIlhenny—Fairmount Park Commission

We are fortunate to have this house open for the first time on the house tour.

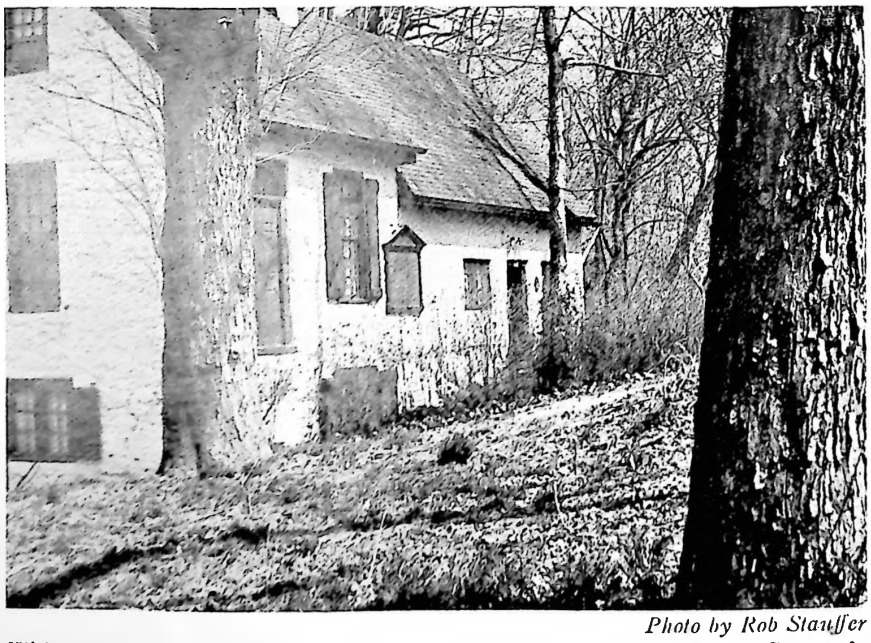
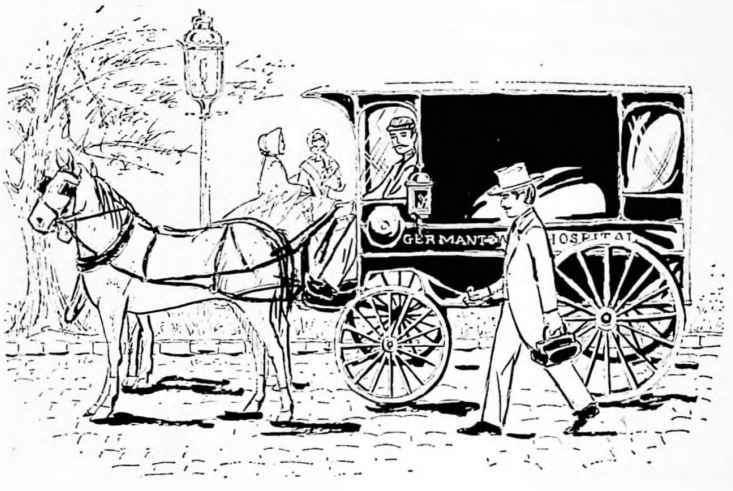


Photo by Rob Stauffer

White painted stone house on Wissahickon Drive near Rittenhouse Street is birthplace of David Rittenhouse. It was built by William Rittenhouse, great grandfather of David, in 1707 and is now a part of Fairmount Park.

Germantown Road and the Belgian Blocks

Copied from typewritten account in "Streets" newspaper, etc. clippings scrapbook. No date included.



Delivery Wagon

FROM 1801 until 1870 the Germantown Road had been cared for by the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike Company—not always to the satisfaction of the citizens. In the latter year the City of Philadelphia purchased all the interests of the Company lying within the city limits, and closed the toll gates, but were very slow in making settlement. Early in 1870 Germantown's Representative at Harrisburg (Hon. Wm. F. Smith), presented a Bill providing for the paving of Germantown Ave. with rubble. This passed March 24th and was signed by Governor Geary. The Act required the Philadelphia Department of Highways to make a contract with competent pavers to improve the road from 10th and Huntingdon streets to Summit Ave. in Chestnut Hill, —the cost to be collected from the property owners.

It was not until 1875 that the title to the city was perfected. In February of that year Mahlon Dickinson, Chief Commissioner of Highways, in compliance with the Act of 1870, made contracts for the paving with Jesse P. Shelmire, Jacob Rittenhouse and Wm. W. Dickinson. The contractors started the work. Immediately there arose great opposition from the property owners, who tried to obtain an injunction from the Court and made every effort to have the Act repealed. They objected to a rubble pavement, and as much of the road went through rural districts they objected to the costs which they would have to meet because of their large rural frontages. A bill in equity was filed to enjoin the contractors, but the Court refused to grant it from technical reasons. The contractors however hesitated to incur any risks of collecting and stopped work. In 1876 a bill to repeal the old 1870 act passed the House but did not reach the Senate. In 1877 the same bill passed both houses and was signed by Governor Hartranft.

Seven years had now gone by since any repairs had been made to the road and it had become almost impassable. The tracks were in some places fifteen inches above the level at the sides, every day vehicles were broken in attempting to cross from one side to the other, the old turnpike macadam had worn completely through and, in rainy weather, was merely a series of mud holes. The citizens were indignant. A Public Meeting for action was held at the Town Hall Feb. 17, 1877, at which Charles Spencer was made president and T. Charlton Henry Esq. was the principal speaker. He said that the contract had been given out in 1875 without advertising!, it provided for a rubble pavement at $1.50 per sq. yard, one-third of this cost to be borne by the Passenger Railway Company which used the street, the balance by the property owners. The old Turnpike Company claimed that their obligation to keep the road in repair ceased when the toll gates were abolished, that they had then (about 1871) made a lease with the Railway Co. that the latter should pay $3000 a year rent and keep in repair the street between and to a

certain distance on each side of their rails, that the Railway Co. had never paid one cent of this rent, and now refused to pay anything towards the rubble pavement. The property owners felt that as the 22nd ward paid $40,000 a year Highway tax, the city should do the paving. Mr. Henry stated that the ward had 30,000 citizens and $25,000,000 of Real Estate, and also had the worst Main street in the Commonwealth, and that the condition of this Main street depreciated property at least $1,000,000, that the Phila. Highway Department could do nothing because of the contracts which it had given out on Feb. 23, 1875 at the then rate of $1.50 but which now could be done at $1.00, and the curbstones, which then cost $1.00 per foot, could now be set for 60 cents. Moreover the majority of the citizens did not want rubble (or rubbish) paving anyhow.

Following Mr. Henry the speakers were Gen. Wagner and Messrs. Thomas, Hill, Adamson, Gummey, Taylor and Wister.

The meeting ended by appointing a committee of twelve, who were empowered to employ counsel to obtain an injunction against the contractors, to urge the Legislature to repeal the Act of 1870, and on all ways to promote the street improvement.

Immediately this committee became very active. It collected over $1000 for expenses. On Feb. 22 the Senate committee on Corporations approved the bill for repeal, and the citizens' committee then exerted every influence with the Legislature so that finally the bill was passed and was signed by the Governor April 18th. They could then go before the Court to obtain annulment of the contracts and allow the property owners to decide on the kind of pavement they wanted.—The fight was won.

The decision was in favor of Belgian blocks, although between Washington Lane and Gorgas street the majority of the property holders were not disposed to sign for either Belgian blocks or rubble,—they preferred the old turnpike macadam. Councils however, showed no disposition to lay any more macadam pavements—the upkeep was too expensive.

In April (1877) the Philadelphia Board of Health declared the Main street a public nuisance. On May 24 Councils promptly passed an ordinance to grade and pave the street from Negley's Hill to Harvey street, with the provision that the cost to the city was not to exceed $812.50! The upper section—Harvey to Gorgas streets—was to follow a little later.

And what a work was before them. Grading was to leave some houses high in air, others level with or below the pavement. Curb setting was to take away many fine trees. Widening of roadway or sidewalks was to remove fences and even the old fashioned stoops. One great inconvenience, although only temporary, was in leaving the cast iron caps over gas and water connections to the houses to protrude for several inches above the ground—thus providing excellent traps for unwary feet, especially at night.

The work of paving was to begin July 16th, but actually did not get under way until August 3rd, by which time the grading and curb-setting was about finished. The start was made at Harvey street and progressed rapidly southward. On August 18th the blocks were down as far as Armat street. The men who laid these blocks received $4.00 per day, the rammers $2.50, the laborers $1.50—in contrast to which those employed by the Railway Co. in relaying the tracks were paid only $1.25 per day.

Below Coulter street some interesting finds were made. An old pump-log drain was unearthed which had been used by the houses between Penn street and the Nutz (now Marple) residence, where it met a little stream arising on the southwest side of the turnpike. Originally the ground had here been very low and marshy, and many logs were found, several feet below the present level, which had once formed part of an artificial road. Just below Penn street, in front of Treichler's Drug Store, was a fine shade tree, said to have been planted by John Fanning Watson, which died because of the change of grade, while the wall in front of Friends Meeting grounds, above Coulter street, was torn down and relocated because it was three feet over the new line of the pavement.

The work at last was ended and the people could no longer say they had the WORST MAIN STREET IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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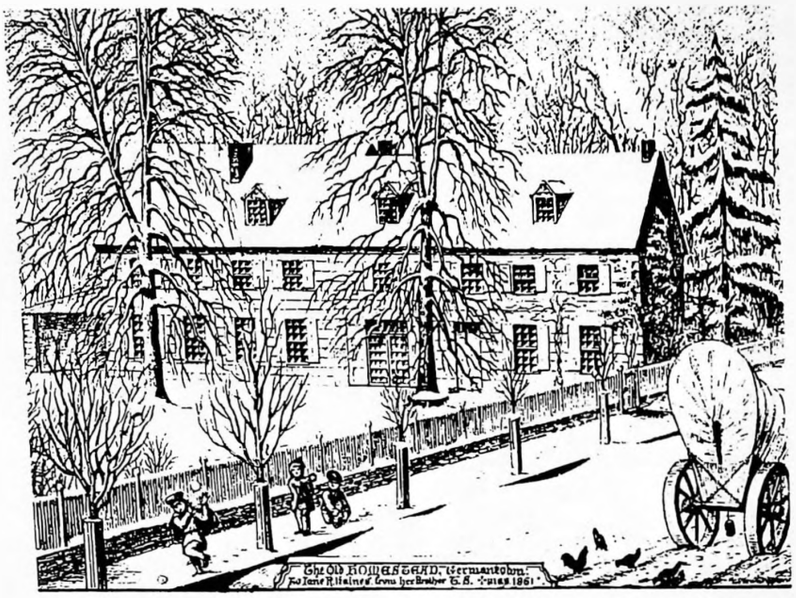
Annual Yield When Super Compounded . . .
5.47% per yr.
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1625 Wadsworth Ave. 7928 Bustleton Ave.
Peg Lane, Dresher, Pa. 19025

First Annual Meeting of the "Friends of Wyck"



"WYCK"

"Wyck", long known as Germantown's oldest house and now historically confirmed as the oldest standing house in Philadelphia, was the scene Saturday afternoon, March 22, of a gala tea-reception with some two hundred in attendance. A reception followed the first annual meeting of the "Friends of Wyck" which was held in the auditorium of the First United Methodist Church across the street.

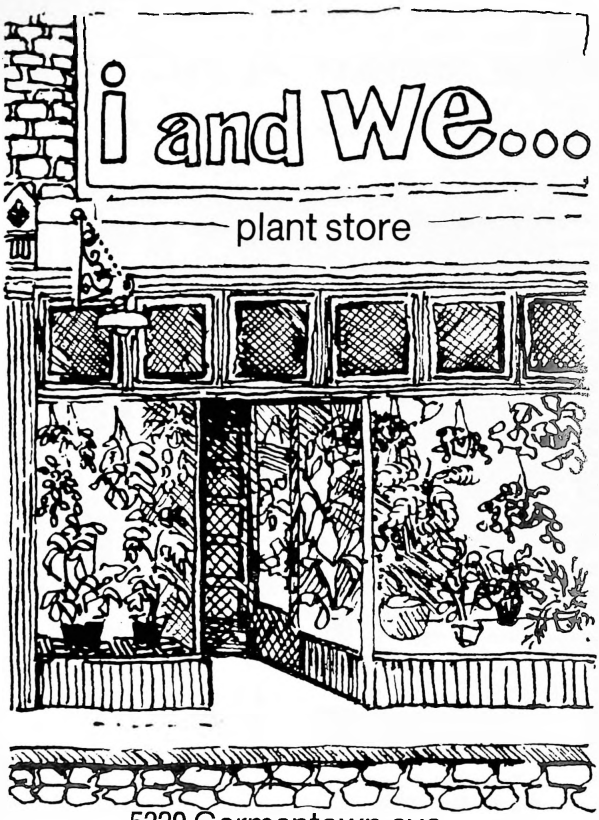
Mr. Thomas Wistar, Jr., president of "Friends of Wyck," introduced as speaker for the occasion Dr. Margaret Tinkcom, co-author of the book "Historic Germantown". With slides to illustrate, Dr. Tinkcom described features of six important colonial homes in Germantown. Her selection was two-fold: Significant family occupancy, and ante-dating of the American Revolution.

The six were: Stenton, built by James Logan in 1720; Grumblethorpe, by John Wister, 1744; the Johnson House, 1765–68; the Deshler-Morris House, 1770, Washington's temporary White House during the great yellow fever epidemic and the Benjamin Chew house, "Cliveden", 1763–67. Dr. Tinkcom concluded with the earliest, Wyck, begun by Hans Milan in 1690.

Distinguished guests for the occasion included Mrs. Robert B. Haines, III, last family resident owner of Wyck who in 1973 deeded the property to the Wyck Charitable Trust under trusteeship of First Pennsylvania Bank, and Mrs. Francis R. Strawbridge. Mrs. Strawbridge, a family descendant, is a founding member and honorary president of the "Friends of Wyck." She recently celebrated her 95th birthday.

Mrs. Thomas D. Thacher, also a descendant of Caspar Wistar, third generation owner of Wyck, a member of the Wyck Advisory Committee, was on hand. Others, besides many family related guests, included Dr. James Mooney, Director of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Mooney, Dr. Jonathan Rhoads, Mrs. William Tasman, first president of the Chestnut Hill Historical Society, and Mr. and Mrs. William Davidson, who came from Montreal for the occasion. Mrs. Davidson was a granddaughter of George Washington Haines.

Elected to a second year term as officers of "Friends of Wyck" were: Thomas Wistar, Jr., president; Mrs. Walter Penn Shipley, Jr., vice-president; Mrs. Nicholson Cash, secretary; Wallace S. Martindale, Jr., treasurer, and executive committee members Mrs. Eastburn Thompson and Charles Huston Haines. Mr. Haines is also chairman of the Wyck Committee of the Germantown Historical Society.



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Continued from Page 46
Hills," and by Henry Pratt "Lemon Hill," the same being now a part of Fairmount Park.

Franklinville, a tract of ground originally laid out by a land association, east of Nicetown, in the neighborhood of Third and Fourth and Butler and Pike streets.

Gander Hill, a nickname for a portion of the city in the neighborhood of Huntington and Cumberland streets, and between Twenty-second and Twenty-fourth streets. It adjoins Swampoodle on the west.

Girard Point, at the mouth of the Schuylkill River, on the east bank and on a line about due north from the west end of League Island; so called in honor of Stephen Girard, who was a large landowner in that vicinity.

Goosetown, a name given between 1825 and 1850 in derision to that portion of the city lying between Locust and Pine streets and between Seventeenth and Twentieth streets.

Greenland, a village on the west side of the Schuylkill, about a quarter of a mile from the Falls, on the Ford road.

Gripsholm, a fort on the west side of the Schuylkill, erected by the Swedes, probably near the hill at Gray's Ferry.

Grubtown. See *Crescentville*.

Haddington, in the western part of Blockley township, on the Haverford road, between Sixty-fifth and Seventieth streets, was originally the seat of a mill, around which houses were gradually built. It first appeared upon the map of 1816.

Hamilton Village, on the west side of the Schuylkill, in Blockley township, extending from the Middle Ferry. Ten cross streets running north and south were laid out west of the intersection of the Darby and Lancaster roads. There was one square north of Market street and five squares below, as appears on the map of 1809. It was laid out by William Hamilton of "The Woodlands" in the year 1804, who granted lots for a school-house and Protestant Episcopal and Presbyterian churches.

Hamlet (The), was laid out in 1811 upon the Peel Hall estate, a portion of which is now occupied by Girard College. Several lots were disposed of, and more were for sale in that year.

Harrowgate, a village in the neighborhood of the old Harrowgate garden and mineral spring, established before the year 1800. The district is in the neighborhood of Harrowgate lane, Venango street, and Kensington avenue.

Hestonville, a village which grew up near the Columbus Tavern on the Lancaster road, about two and three-quarter miles west of Market Street Bridge, and not far south of George's Hill in the Park. The Heston family had a country-seat here about 1800, which was called "The Villa." When the settlement increased the name selected for it, in compliment to the Heston family, was Hestonville.

Hollinsville, a small village at the intersection of Bristol turnpike and the road from Tacony below Holmesburg; so called by Edmund J. Hollinshead, a large owner of land in the neighborhood.

Holmesburg, a village in Lower Dublin township, near the intersection of the Philadelphia and Bristol road with the Pennypack Creek. It was established as a village in the early part of the present century upon ground originally taken up by Eleanor Holme and Thomas Holme, the latter William Penn's first surveyor. The village received its name from this family, one of the last members of which was John Holme, who lived near Holmesburg and was deceased before 1810.

Irish Town, a nickname in 1784 for a portion of Shippen street.

Kenderton, a name given about 1830 to the settlement at the intersection of Broad street and Germantown road, after the name of Kenderton Smith, a lawyer and owner of real estate.

Knightsville, on the Byberry and Bensalem turnpike, at the intersection of Moreland road, about thirteen miles from Philadelphia; named in honor of Leonard Knight and Jonathan T. Knight, who at one time was judge of the Court of Common Pleas and resided for many years at that place.

Korsholm, a fort erected by the Swedes in Passyunk, probably before 1648, and afterward burned and destroyed by Indians. It was on the east side of the Schuylkill, north of Fort Beversrede, and probably on the high land of Point Breeze.

Leverington, a village on Ridge turnpike, adjoining Manayunk on the east, between Allen's and Gorgas's lanes; so called in compliment to the Levering family, old inhabitants of Roxborough.

McCartersville, on the new Second street road, south of Crescentville.

Mantua, laid out about 1809 by Judge Richard Peters of Belmont, who offered lots for sale, and described them to "be in the western part of Blockley, on the road to the Upper Ferry, one mile from the western abutment of the Permanent Bridge." Considerable additions were made to it on the south in after years by John Britton. The name is supposed to have been derived from Mantua in Italy. This village became in time a portion of West Philadelphia.

Martinsville, a name given to a settlement in the First Ward, in the neighborhood of the Greenwich Point road and the old Southwark Canal, east of Front street and between Wolf and Porter streets.

Maylandville, on the Darby road, where Mill Creek crosses below the Woodlands Cemetery, and north of the road which leads from Gray's Ferry Bridge to the Darby road, a settlement which grew around the mills there. They were very ancient, and the stream was known as Moenson's Mill Fall in the time of the Swedes. These mills between 1810 and 1820 passed into the ownership of Jacob Mayland, who finally put

them to use for the manufacture of snuff and tobacco. The village received its name in compliment to him.

Mechanicsville, situated on the Poquessing Creek, where Black Lake empties into it.

Milestown, on the Old York road, near Burkham's lane, was in existence about the year 1800. It probably received its name from the Miles family, some of the members of which were conspicuous in public affairs during the Revolution and afterward.

Morrisville. This name was given in 1813 by the proprietors of the tract of land formerly known by the name of "The Hills," and belonging to Robert Morris, with the exception of the property called "Lemon Hill," then belonging to Henry Pratt. They had the grounds surveyed and laid out in lots, and offered at auction in that year 1700 feet on Callowhill street, beginning at the Schuylkill front (Twenty-second street) and extending to John street, now Twenty-fifth street. The bounds of the Morrisville estate extended beyond Fairmount avenue, but between 1830 and 1840 the name was in popular language confined to the ground in the neighborhood of the present reservoir of the Spring Garden Waterworks.

Mount Airy, a village on the main road north of Germantown, was so named after Mount Airy, the country-seat of Chief-justice William Allen before the Revolution, which afterward belonged to Captain Stephen Decatur the elder.

Mount Airy. See *Cresheim*.

Mount Pleasant about 1800 was a small village on the Germantown main road, about half a mile below Mount Airy. It was about 8 miles from Philadelphia, and halfway between the intersection of Allen's lane and Morgan's lane.

New Philadelphia, a town proposed to be laid out in 1799, bounded south by Callowhill street, north by Francis lane, east by Schuylkill Fourth street, and west by the river Schuylkill. The main street, 100 feet wide, was to run east and west, and strike the Schuylkill a little above the Upper Ferry. It was somewhere near the line of the present Spring Garden street.

New Rotterdam, a name given by John Todd to a tract of land in the Northern Liberties, one mile from the State-House, which was laid out in 1796. It was bounded on the north by Cohocksink Creek, on the west by Germantown road, and on the south by a street then called Orange street. The location was in the neighborhood of the present Front and Laurel streets.

Nicetown, a village in Penn township of the Unincorporated Northern Liberties, at the intersection of Germantown road and Nicetown lane. It appears on the map of 1809, and received its name from the Nice family, owners of Cedar Grove, a tract of ground near there.

Nittabaconck, a large Indian town situated on the east bank of the Schuylkill River, about or below the Falls of Schuylkill.

North Penn Village, laid out by a land-and-building association some years ago, east of the Ridge road, north of Glenwood and Odd Fellows' Cemeteries, between York street and Susquehanna avenue and Twenty-fifth and Thirtieth streets.

Nya Vasa, a settlement by the Swedes on the west side of the Schuylkill River, about opposite the present Girard Point.

Olney, at the intersection of Olney road and old Second street, or Bustleton and Smithfield turnpike, south of McCartersville.

Paschalville, a village on the Darby road near Cobb's Creek, north-east of the Blue Bell Tavern; named from the Paschal family, old inhabitants of Kingsessing township.

Passyunkville was laid out in 1811 on a road leading by the Schuylkill, a little below the Swan Tavern, near Israel Israel's place. It was about the location of the present Point Breeze. The projectors said, "It is presumed that it will soon become a place of business."

Pemichpacka, an Indian town situated somewhere upon the stream since known as the Pennepack Creek. Pemichpacka means "deep, dead water," according to Mr. Henry, or "a pond, lake or bay, water not having a current," according to Dr. Maurice C. Jones.

Pessenewaningh, an Indian village situated near the Delaware, between Shackamaxon and Frankford Creeks.

Piltsville, a village at the intersection of Limekiln road and Haines street, running from Germantown.

Pleasantville, a village in Moreland township, on the county line, about one mile east of Somerton. It originated from a store kept there by Edward Worthington, and was then called "Tortleburg" or "Terrapin Town." Between 1860 and 1865 the present more euphonious name was adopted for the place.

Plumbsock. See *Byberry Cross-roads*.

Poetquessing, called by Lindstrom and Campanius *Poanpissing*, was an Indian village on the banks of the stream now called the Poquessing Creek. Concerning the name of this place there is disagreement among students of the Delaware Indian language. Mr. Henry says that it means "drinking creek," from *poan*, "bread," *bissum*, "strong," and *ing*, "a place or locality." He adds the ingenious suggestion that the name might have been derived from a distillery near there, where the elements of good bread were made into strong drink. But Dr. Maurice C. Jones says that the meaning of *poet* is "mouse," and that the true interpretation is "a place abounding with mice."

Point Breeze, a name given to the elevated land in the Neck rising above the marshy portions, and extending in a wavy line running toward the north-east.

Point-no-Point, the name given to ground south of and adjoining the mouth of Frankford Creek. There was a famous inn there at an early day. The name was given in consequence of the changes in the appearance of the Point by the approaches on the Delaware

River. When first seen, going northward, it appeared to be a point boldly jutting out into the stream; upon coming nearer it lost its character and seemed to be an ordinary portion of the right bank; on further approach it seemed to again jut out into a point. Hence the old triplet, well known to every one who sailed or rowed upon the river:

"Point-no-Point—
Point out, point in,
And point *agin.*"

The greater portion of the Point was afterward incorporated in the borough of Bridesburg.

Point Pleasant, in Kensington, situated upon the Delaware River where Maiden street (afterward Laurel street) was laid out. The name was quite popular in that section for many years, and was given to foundries, glass-works, etc.

Rising Sun, a village at the intersection of Germantown and Old York roads, formerly called *Sunville*. It derived its name from the Rising Sun Tavern, a very ancient inn at that point.

Rittenhouse Town, a small village on Rittenhouse lane, between the Wissahickon Creek and Township Line road, near Paper-mill Run; so called from the Rittenhouse family, whose paper-mill, the first established in America, was built near this site before the year 1700.

Rockville, on the Bristol turnpike, north-west of Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Sandy Hill, a modern village on the Bustleton and Smithfield turnpike, north of the River road.

Smithfield. See *Somerton*.

Society Hill, that portion of the old city of Philadelphia south of Dock Creek, beginning at Spruce street and between the Delaware and Third street. The land rose on Front street at Pine to a notable eminence. The title was frequently given to the south-eastern portion of the city.

Somerhausen, or *Summerhausen*, a division of the German township, extended from the Limekiln road to an eighth of a mile above Chestnut Hill gate. In modern times it has been known as Chestnut Hill.

Somerton, on the Bustleton and Somerton turnpike road, about 3 miles below Bustleton and 13 miles from Philadelphia, partly in Moreland and partly in Byberry township. It was formerly called Smithfield, and is to be found on the map of 1809. When it became a post-office the name was changed to Somerton in honor of Judge Sommers of the District Court, who lived near by.

Sommerville, a village at the intersection of Church lane and Limekiln road.

Springettsbury, a manor which commenced north of Vine street, and extended from the Delaware to the Schuylkill River, and northward to Cohoquinoque Creek or Pegg's Run, where the lands of Julian Hartsfelder stopped the way. Springettsbury land stretched out to where Ridge road was afterward opened. It ran up along the line of Hartsfelder's land, which was irregular. It reached in some places as far east as the present Broad or Thirteenth street. Northwardly it touched Turner's lane, which was its boundary, and then ran in a south-west direction in line with the lane to the Schuylkill, which it reached at a point between the present Spring Garden Waterworks and the Reading Railroad Bridge; thence by the course of the river to Vine street. This was a very small body of land to be called a "manor," and under the necessities of Penn and his family it rapidly became smaller by sales of lots and tracts of ground within the boundaries, so that the Proprietary, from speaking of it as a "manor," alluded to it in his deeds as a "reputed manor;" and finally the area was so much circumscribed west of Broad street by the grants of the Vinyard estate, Bush Hill, and other transfers that it was called Springettsbury "Farm." In 1787 the remnant of this manor was divided by partition between John Penn, Sr., and John Penn, Jr. The Springettsbury House, the manor-house of this grand plantation, was situated in the neighborhood of the present Twentieth and Spring Garden streets, until it was destroyed by fire some time after the Revolution.

Steinberg, a village laid out in 1815, three miles and a half from Philadelphia, on the Frankford road Robert Brooke and G. W. Steinhauer were the projectors of this enterprise.

Sunville. See *Rising Sun*.

Swampoodle, a nickname given to a settlement of houses situated between Twentieth street and Twenty-third or Twenty-fourth street, south of the Hart road, and upon Cumberland and Huntington streets.

Tacony, situated on the Delaware River above Frankford Creek, and near the Frankford Waterworks at Ladner's Point. It takes its name from the Toaconning or Toaconic, which was originally intended to be a township. *Tekene* means in the Indian language "a wood" or "an inhabited place."

Torresdale, a village at the extreme north-east corner of the city, on the Delaware River, near the junction of that river and Poquessing Creek, formerly in Lower Dublin township.

Tortleburg, or *Terrapin Town*. See *Pleasantville*.

Unionville, a small village north of Feltonville, on the Second street road.

Vinyard. See *Francisville*.

Volunteer Town, on the road from Frankford to Fox Chase, in Oxford township, began to grow into a settlement after the year 1816, and received its name from the Volunteer Tavern, which was situated there.

Whitestown, a name given to a group of houses on the west side of the Schuylkill, near the Falls, which were built about 1810 by Josiah White and his partner, Erskine Hazard, for dwellings for the hands employed in their wire-factory at that place.

Wiessakitkonk, on the west side of the Schuylkill, is mentioned as a "place" in a grant of land by the Upland Court in 1677. The site is supposed to have been opposite the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek.

Wicaco, the name of an Indian village, called on Lindstrom's map *Wichqua Coingh*, a tract of land of about 800 acres, fronting on the river Delaware, and commencing at Moyamensingkill, afterward known as Hollander's Creek, extending up the Delaware in breadth 400 rods, in length into the woods 600 rods, granted by the Dutch governor, Alexander d'Hinoyossa, to Swen Gonderson, Swen Swenson, Oele Swenson, and Andries Swenson about 1654. It extended up, it is believed, beyond the present line of South street, and westward as far as Seventeenth or Eighteenth street, about Long lane near South street, and thence in a diagonal line to Hollander's Creek. *Wicaco* is an abbreviation of *Wichacomoca*, "a dwelling-place," from *wichqua*, "a house."

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SPECIAL DESHLER-MORRIS COMING EVENTS

Trent House and Barracks Tour for Deshler-Morris House Women's and Hostess Committee, their friends and interested members of the Society, Tuesday, April 29, 1975. Bus will leave promptly at 9:00 A.M. in front of Deshler-Morris House. Will include luncheon. Reservations A MUST. For information regarding cost, etc., please call Mrs. James S. Bishop, VI 9-0732.

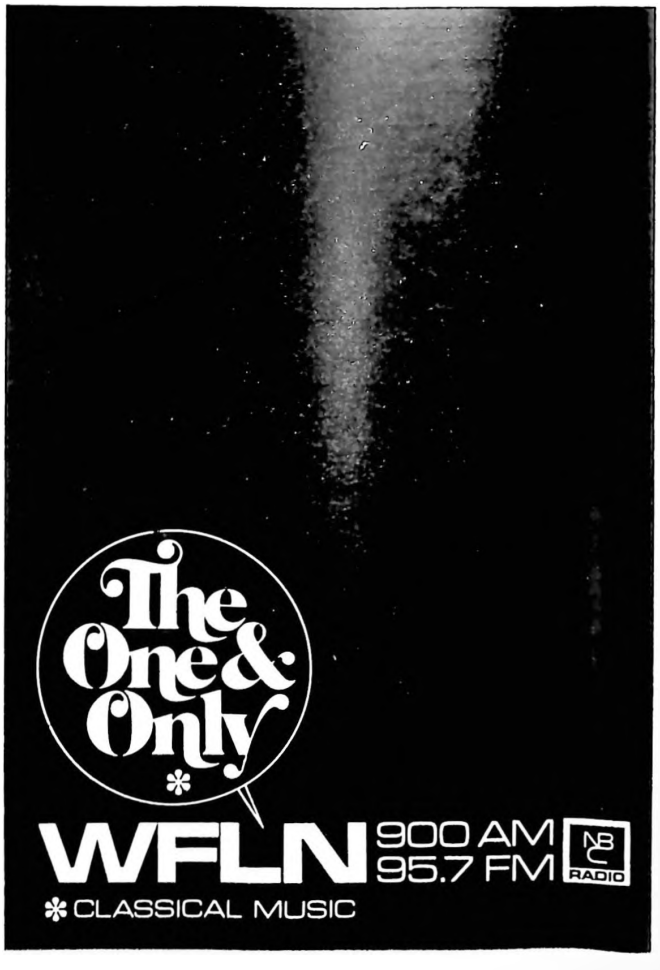
Costume Museum Treasures Loaned to Smithsonian Institution

The Costume Museum of the Germantown Historical Society has lent an 18th century dress called a short cotton gown and petticoat to the Smithsonian Institution for an exhibition of the "Democratization of Clothing in America." This exhibition covers clothing of the "common" people. Petticoats of this period in color and quilted were seen as exterior clothing. This dress is a rare survival of the so-called common form of female dress. It was worn in rural areas and by the working class. Women went to gaol (jail) in Prince William County, Virginia, wearing this form in 1773.

We plan to have this dress on exhibition in our Museum in 1976.

Most clothing of 18th century still surviving was worn by the gentry and important people. Many were worn for a special purpose such as a wedding or a ball.

DEBORAH C. RITTER
Chairman, Costume Committee



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NEWS OF DESHLER-MORRIS HOUSE
(Germantown White House)

ANNE MCCAUGHEY

Those who attended the meeting of the Deshler-Morris House guides February 10 at Trinity Lutheran Church were taken on an archeological dig, and they didn't even have to get mud on their shoes or dirt under their fingernails.

The conductor of the tour was Daniel G. Crozier, research associate in the Department of Anthropology at Temple University, who is in charge of the excavations at the Deshler-Morris House which began at the end of December 1974 and which will continue for several more months.

With the assistance of Doris Weiland, a member of the excavating team, he showed his audience colored slides of the work in progress at the historic house where George Washington lived on two occasions, in the autumn of 1793 and in the summer of 1794.

Mr. Crozier described what is being done at the Deshler-Morris House as a comprehensive dig and he promised that nothing of cultural value will be destroyed by the excavation.

Before the bricks were to be removed from the walks alongside the house, photographs were taken of them so there will be no doubt about each brick being restored to its proper place.

In addition to working on the dig, the American Studies program at Temple University is checking on other things in connection with the Germantown White House. One student is doing research on the furniture in the house. Another, the project of finding out when a sewage system was put into operation in Germantown. Information about this may help to determine the age of the pipes being uncovered in the excavation. A third student has the project of learning more about German newspapers published in Germantown from 1793 to 1796.

Following Mr. Crozier's talk, Mrs. Richard S. Wilson, chairman of the Women's Committee of the Deshler-Morris House, told of some of the plans for the house. She said the 18th century kitchen is to be restored and a modern working kitchen behind the 18th century kitchen is also in the architect's plan for the house.

Restoration work is to start around the middle of March—estimated completion time 300 days.

"Loudoun" frontage extended from Apsley Street to Wyneva Street

"Loudoun," the stately mansion that crowns Neglee's Hill, has recently acquired the corner of Germantown Avenue and Wyneva Street which was occupied by an abandoned gas station.

It is quite an addition to beautiful Loudoun Park, as well as to the neighborhood. Many feel a gas station is seldom a thing of beauty and a vacant gas station, never. For several years this particular one was vacant, and of course quickly became an eyesore. It was covered with graffitti, abandoned cars and rubbish and the office building was slowly being destroyed by vandals. To say it was an unpleasant sight is an understatement.

After much urging by the Committee ("Friends of Loudoun") the Fairmount Park Commission and the City of Philadelphia acquired the plot. Now "Loudoun's" frontage, on the first certified Historic District, our Germantown Avenue extends from Apsley Street to Wyneva Street.

Work was begun in the Fall of 1974 to clear the building, the concrete and the gas tanks, etc. By November, 1974, the land had been graded and leveled and grass seed planted. To complete the transformation a wrought iron fence matching the existing fence was erected.

With the coming of Spring, trees and shrubbery will be planted and by next year, 1976, it will look as it did years ago before it was separated from Loudoun Park.

English ivy will cover the brick wall at the rear of the lot (quickly it is hoped) and maple and oak trees will be planted to conform with other Park trees. Shrubs and evergreens compatible with the locale will be added.

We know you will notice the great improvement all this has made in the lower part of Germantown. And, while in the vicinity we invite you to come and visit "Loudoun." We, the "Friends of Loudoun" are always happy to show you the many treasures left by the Armats and the Logans, and bequeathed to you, the people of Philadelphia, and especially to Germantown.

AMELIA N. FARR
Chairman, "Friends of Loudoun"

PLANNED LECTURES FOR GUIDES OF WYCK

A very interesting and worthwhile series of lectures was given for the Guides of Wyck, beginning Friday, January 17 at 10:00 A.M. at Wyck. Speakers and subjects follow.

January 17—Chas. Huston Haines
Chairman, Wyck Committee
"Wyck Family and History"

February 28—Mrs. Albert E. Wolf
"Early Germantown"

March 7—Raymond V. Shepherd, Jr.
Administrator of "Cliveden"
"Furnishings of Wyck" (First Floor only)

March 14—Thomas Wistar, Jr.
President of Friends of Wyck.
"Architectural Significance of Wyck"

March 21—Mrs. Francis E. Judson
Philadelphia's Tucker China 1825–1838

Mrs. Walter P. Shipley was Chairman.

Each talk ended with a Question and Answer period, following which refreshments were served in Wyck's charming dining room. All lectures were well attended and very much enjoyed by all present.

"PHYSICK STREET"

Building operations on East Tulpehocken street have brought about the removal of all the dwellings on Physick street. Few Germantowners of today and still fewer residents elsewhere in the city are aware of the existence of Physick street. Years ago it was somewhat of a landmark. In late years it has been but one square long, from Baynton to Osceola street, south of Tulpehocken street, but originally it was a lane leading from Germantown avenue to the grounds of Philip Syng Physick in the neighborhood of Morton and Tulpehocken streets.

There at the time of the silk worm craze of 1838 and 1839 Mr. Physick established one of the largest cocooneries in the country. Like numerous other attempts to produce silk through silk worms, Mr. Physick's Highfield Cocoonery proved a financial failure.

The cocoonery buildings remained there for many years. A second story was added, and later a roof, and for nearly 20 years Samuel Eastburn conducted the place as a boarding house. Eventually the site was cut up into building lots and streets were opened, thus bringing about the removal of the cocoonery building.

Physick street did not fit well with the other streets of the city plan, and it proved a barrier to the development of part of Tulpehocken street. Finally the problem has been solved by the removal of Physick street, to make room for a row of dwellings on Tulpehocken street. Hereafter Physick street will be only an alley in the rear of Tulpehocken street.

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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:

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