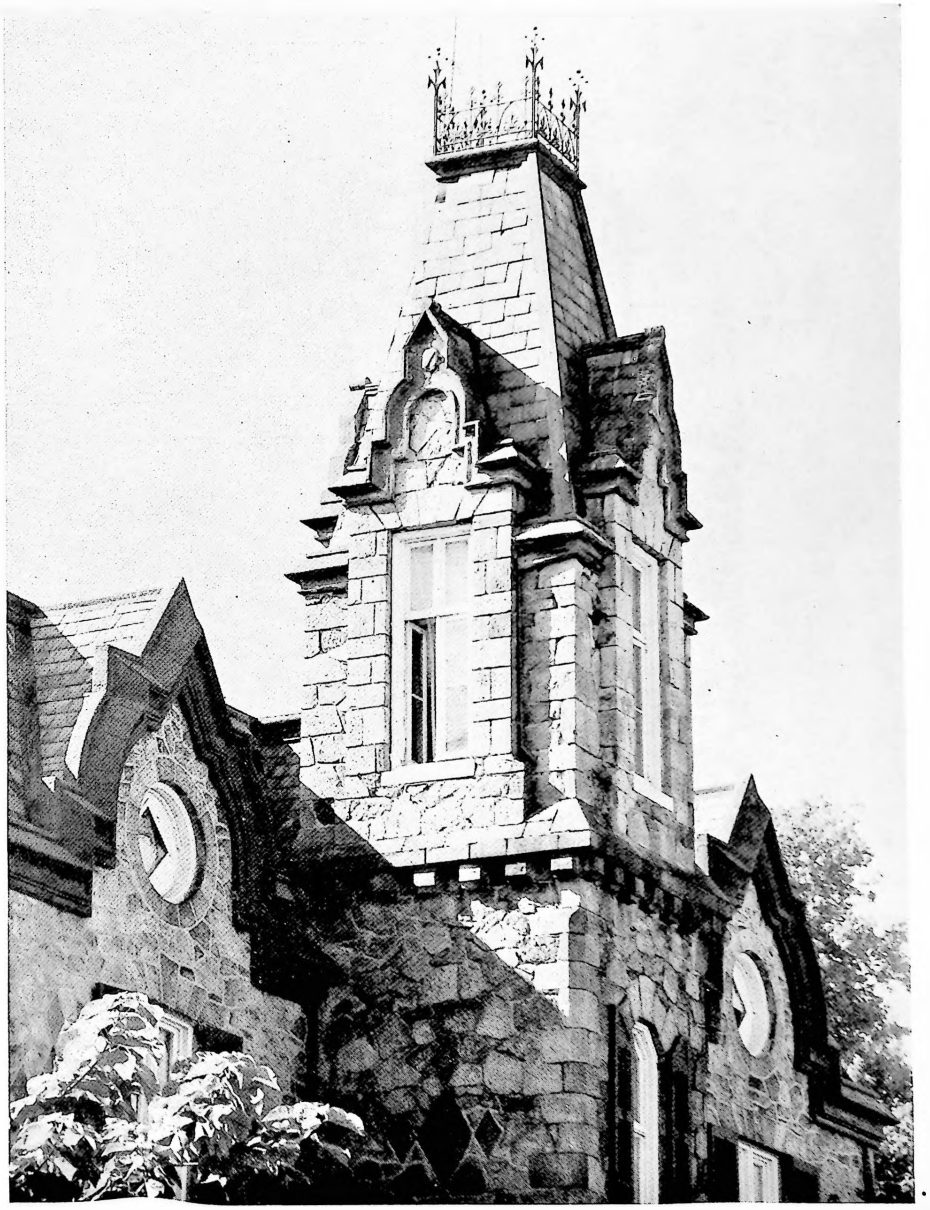
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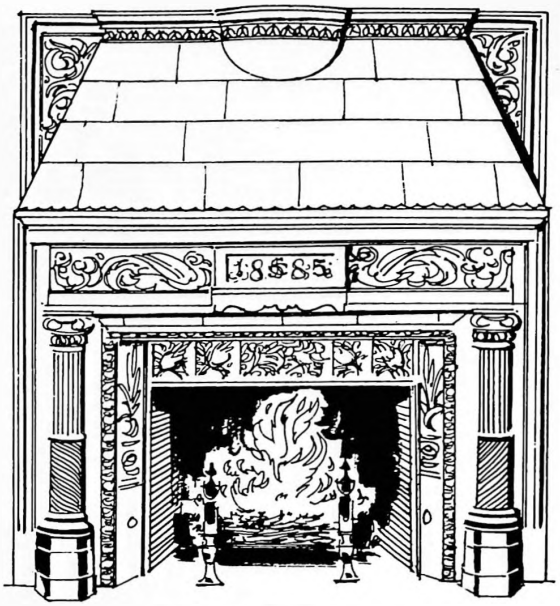
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The Germantown Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and promoting the cultural traditions of Germantown—through the preservation of historic landmarks; the maintenance of a museum of relics, a costume museum, and a library; the sponsorship of lectures and tours; and the publication of articles relating to local history.

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January 21, 1965 —Mrs. Albert M. Greenfield: "Education—Past, Present, and Future."
February 18, 1965—Mr. Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A.: "Architecture as a Fine Art."
March 18, 1965 —Mr. Edmund N. Bacon, Executive Director, Philadelphia City Planning Commission: "The New Plan for Old Germantown."
April 15, 1965 —Miss Jean Lee: "Chinese Furniture."

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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Vol. 16 DECEMBER, 1964 No. 4

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Report of the President

—Judge Harold D. Saylor

THREE years ago, in the December, 1961, issue of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER, I reported that the Germantown Historical Society had acquired 6505 Germantown Avenue by gift and was purchasing 6507 Germantown Avenue, the northern half of the Michael Billmeyer House, at Upsal Street. Last year I reported the acquisition of the Christopher Mason House, across the street, at 6514 Germantown Avenue. This year the Society purchased a fourth residence, the Shippen-Blair House, 6043 Germantown Avenue (at the corner of Walnut Lane), across the street from Wyck.

During the year it has been necessary to make extensive repairs to the two most-recently-acquired houses and to paint the woodwork of the Billmeyer House. Pointing the stone walls, repairing the roof, safeguarding an ancient tree, and painting the doors and windows of the Christopher Mason House have been completed. The work of removing the defective plaster from the north wall of the Shippen-Blair House and making interior repairs was done last summer by Germantown youth under the Gypsy Program of the Germantown Community Council, made possible by gifts from foundations and generous citizens. Since then, additional work, such as pointing the north wall and replastering the front wall, has been done at the Society's expense.

Moreover, various chores at the three houses occupied by the Society were performed by the Gypsy workers. Frank J. Ollinger, Chairman of the House Committee, has been in charge of all restoration work. He has accomplished much in getting the work done well and at not-too-high a cost. During the summer, while the Gypsy Program—so much in need of constant supervision—was in progress, Mr. Ollinger gave it constant attention, at considerable personal sacrifice of time and energy. But for his efforts, the work would not have been done properly.

Today our seven houses are in first-class condition. We are carrying out our purposes, one of which is to preserve Germantown's historic landmarks. Our houses and those owned by the City, such as Stenton, Loudoun, and Vernon; those owned by nonprofit organizations, such as the Johnson House, Upsala, and Grumblethorpe; and some of those privately owned, such as the Chew House (Cliveden), the Fromberger House, and Wyck, are in safe hands. However, there are still a few houses not yet secured against the wrecker or the wrack and ruin wrought by time and neglect. Our purpose is to protect those worthy of preservation as the circumstances permit.

Thomas von Trott, Chairman of the Relics Committee, has safeguarded the Museum's artifacts, has exhibited them effectively, and has constantly obtained new items for addition to our collections. Needed now is additional exhibition space, which will be provided, when funds are available, by adding another section to the Museum Annex erected a year ago at the rear of the Baynton House on the site of unattractive private garages. It is hoped to increase visitation at the Museum by school classes under a program assisted by Colonial Germantown, Inc.

Mrs. J. Bradford Ritter, Chairman of the Costume Committee, has continued to maintain, augment, and display the fine collection presently housed in the Bechtel House, at 5226 Germantown Avenue.

During the year, the Society received final distribution of its share of the Estate of Eliza R. Finckel, whose generosity made possible the purchase of the Christopher Mason and Shippen-Blair Houses and a considerable increment to our Life Membership Endowment Fund. A silver plaque in memory of Miss Finckel has been placed in the Museum.

Neilson C. Bridger, who succeeded the late Thomas Humphreys, Jr., as treasurer two years ago, resigned in the spring after faithful service to the Society. He was succeeded by Wallace S. Martindale, Jr. Frederick B. M. Cardeza, Jr., became secretary, thereby relieving, at long last, our ever-active and useful vice-president, Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr., of many details incident to the secretary's job, which for well over a decade he handled with great fidelity and care, despite many other demands on his time and energy, boundless though the latter has been.

The annual tour of old houses in Germantown was again successful, and the efforts of Dr. Gordon W. Venable and Frank Ollinger resulted in a substantial addition to current funds.

The high standards of format and content of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER, established and for years adhered to by Mrs. Henry F. Wireman, now editor emeritus, have been maintained by Miss Jane Carl. Edwin Iwanicki has succeeded Stanley B. Smullen, III, as chairman of the Publications Committee.

During the year, the Society arranged for the photographing of six well-known Germantown houses for the making of color post cards published by the Society and now on sale with other cards heretofore available. It is hoped that members will buy these cards and use them in their correspondence, thereby spreading knowledge of Germantown as a historic community

(Continued on page 123)

Philadelphia and the First Museum of Photography

FOLLOWING the introduction of photography into the United States in the autumn of 1839, Philadelphia came to assume an important role in the development of that art. Maintaining its photographic eminence through the remaining decades of the nineteenth century, the Quaker City contributed many significant innovations to the art and science of photography. Quite properly, then, it was this same city which, hardly more than a century after the introduction of photography into the United States, became the seat of a new institution—the first museum in the world devoted solely to the field of photography in all of its phases.

This new institution, the American Museum of Photography, opened its doors to the public on December 10, 1940. Five years later, on November 9, 1945, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted to the Museum a charter as a nonprofit corporation, and in the following year the corporation purchased the building at 338 South Fifteenth Street, which had been occupied by the Museum since its inception. This building houses the Museum's extensive reference library as well as its permanent exhibits relating to the history of photography. In addition to collecting and preserving books, artifacts, photographs, and other items pertaining to photography, and making these reference materials available to qualified persons, the Museum has, from time to time, arranged traveling exhibits, published books, and engaged in special projects.

Museum Galleries

Established in collaboration with the Ansco Company as a memorial to the founder of the oldest photographic business in America, the Edward Anthony Gallery of the Museum (Figure 1) is devoted to the three major forms of photography current during the nineteenth century, namely, daguerreotypy, wet-plate photography, and dry-plate photography. Displays include apparatus used in the different processes and examples of the results thereby obtained.

The early photographic process known as daguerreotypy was named after Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre (1789–1851), the French inventor who perfected the process introduced in 1839. Photographs made by this process were produced on silver plates or on copper plates covered with silver, the images being fixed on the metal by the action of certain vapors. Daguerre's work was the first commercially-successful form of photography.

The photographic process which superseded daguerreotypy was known as the wet-collodion, or wet-plate, process. This development was introduced in the 1850's and dominated the photographic field for some thirty years. It was a process requiring considerable skill on the part of the photographer, as he was obliged to coat and sensitize his own plates on location just prior to exposure and to develop them immediately thereafter. This is the process which was used by the many photographers of the Civil War and by those who photographed the early West. The specimens of photographs on display at the Museum include a 17-by-121-inch panorama of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 made from seven negatives made by the wet-plate process. A most distinguished treatise on this process—perhaps the best writing ever published on the subject—is a book entitled *A Manual of Photography*, written by M. Carey Lea, a Philadelphian. Lea was internationally-known for his work in photochemistry, and his writings appeared in photographic publications both here and abroad.

When gelatine dry plates made their appearance in the 1870's, it was another Philadelphian who established the first commercially-successful plant to manufacture this type of plate in the United States. This local manufacturer, John Carbutt, established his plant in Germantown, just above Wayne Junction, on the north side of Berkley Street between Greene Street and Wayne Avenue. The outstanding quality of his plates attracted international recognition. Carbutt pioneered in the use of transparent celluloid in place of glass as a support for sensitized emulsions,

Figure 1. The Edward Anthony Gallery at the American Museum of Photography is devoted to the three major photographic processes of the nineteenth century.



This article is based upon information supplied by Dr. Louis Walton Sipley, Director of the American Museum of Photography. Dr. Sipley is one of the directors of the Photographic Administrators, Inc., of New York, and a former director of the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers.



Figure 2. One of the first aerial photographs of Philadelphia, this picture was made by W. N. Jennings on July 4, 1893.

and he is credited with having furnished the first strips of such film to Thomas Edison for use in experiments leading to the development of the Kinetoscope (an early device for producing motion pictures). Carbutt also developed orthochromatic plates (plates producing tone values of light and shade in a black and white photograph corresponding to the various color tones in nature) and the first American X-ray plates. The Museum of Photography has a collection of well over one hundred Carbutt negatives dating to about 1880 and representing his productions of that time.

Supplementing the Museum's Edward Anthony Gallery, which illustrates the development of processes for making photographs, another gallery, known as the Photomechanical Gallery, contains displays showing the methods of reproducing pictures by printing processes. The exhibits in this gallery trace the transition from pre-photographic processes of pictorial illustration to the modern photomechanical processes of photoengraving, offset lithography, and photogravure.

Prior to the invention of photography the production and reproduction of pictures on the printed page was accomplished through the use of woodcuts, steel and copper engravings, and lithographs. Woodcuts, used in letterpress printing, were replaced by photoengravings, and Philadelphia inventors Frederic E. Ives and Louis and Max Levy contributed greatly to the success of commercially producing the plates used in the new process. The brothers Louis and Max Levy worked on the development of a process for manufacturing screens for use in the making of halftone photogengravings, and it was Max Levy who invented a machine suitable for cutting the fine lines on halftone screens—an invention which made their firm near Wayne Junction world-famous. It is interesting to note that the firm of Max Levy is still in business on the south side of Berkley Street just west of Wayne Avenue.

Reference Library

Turning away from the galleries to explore the Museum's reference collection, the Philadelphian is further impressed with his city's photographic traditions. The collection of photographic lantern slides, for example, recalls the fact that the first slides of this type in the world were made at Philadelphia. Indeed, it was not until the Crystal Palace Exhibition at London in 1851—three years after the making of the first photographic stereopticon slides in Philadelphia—that photographic slides were introduced into Europe. Philadelphia remained the American center of the magic-lantern and lantern-slide business during the nineteenth century.

Another "first" credited to Philadelphia is the introduction in the early 1850's of the first stereoscopic (three-dimensional) pictures to be shown in America. A collection of these early stereograms is preserved by the American Museum of Photography.

In 1854 a Philadelphian collaborated in the invention of a type of photograph made on glass by backing a thin negative with a black surface. The name "ambrotype" was given to this invention, specimens of which are found in the reference collection, by another Philadelphian, Marcus A. Root, who was to write, in 1864, the first American history of photography. Root's work, entitled *The Camera and the*

Pencil, was published in Philadelphia by J. B. Lippincott and Company.

In 1882, W. N. Jennings, a Philadelphia photographer, attracted widespread attention when he made the world's first photograph of lightning. From that time on, Jennings set up his camera during night thunderstorms and recorded lightning in its many forms. Scientists throughout the world corresponded with him regarding his photographs of lightning, the negatives of which were presented by him to the American Museum of Photography when that institution opened in 1940.

W. N. Jennings also made the first aerial photographs over Philadelphia, a feat which he accomplished in 1893 through the use of a free-floating balloon. The orthochromatic plates and yellow filters used in making these photographs were products of the firm of John Carbutt. Four negatives taken over Philadelphia on July 4, 1893, are among the Museum's collections. One of these aerial photographs is shown in Figure 2. In the foreground of the picture is the Schuylkill River and the reservoir at Fairmount, later to be the site of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; in the background, the tower of City Hall is seen in the process of construction; beyond that lies the Delaware River.

During the early days of photography many scientists and scientifically-inclined men took an active, though not a professional, interest in photography. In 1862 a group of these individuals formed the Photographic Society of Philadelphia, which was to become the leading American nonprofessional photographic group in America during the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth century. It was in the rooms of this Society that a group of photographers from New York and Philadelphia met on December 1 and 2 of 1868 to form the National Photographic Association, lineal ancestor of today's Professional Photographers of America, Inc.

The Photographic Society of Philadelphia, which continues today as the oldest American photographic society, collaborated with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in 1898 to sponsor the first international photographic exhibition ever to be held in the main galleries of a major American art museum. The American Museum of Photography possesses the scrapbooks of this exhibition and thirty-five of the original framed pictures which hung in the exhibition. It is interesting to compare these pictures with those displayed in a modern exhibition. In contrast with the present-day practice of mounting prints on boards of uniform size, these 1898 prints, ranging in size from four-by-five to twelve-by-twenty inches, were exhibited in frames of various kinds and widths.

Among the thousands of negatives in the collections at the Museum are many views of old Philadelphia, which are available for reproduction in books and other publications. Figure 3, for example, is a photographic view of Market Street, looking east from City Hall. Taken about the year 1890, this photograph shows, in the right foreground, the "Grand Depot," which housed John Wanamaker's store from 1876 until the first decade of the twentieth century. The site is now occupied by the present Wanamaker store. Many a local institution celebrating its seventy-fifth or one-hundredth anniversary has taken advantage of this repository in illustrating its anniversary publication. The reference collection of printed matter and photographic specimens is one of the most complete in its field, and it is available to

Figure 3. One of many photographs of Philadelphia from the collections of the American Museum of Photography, this view to the east from City Hall shows Market Street as it looked about the year 1890.



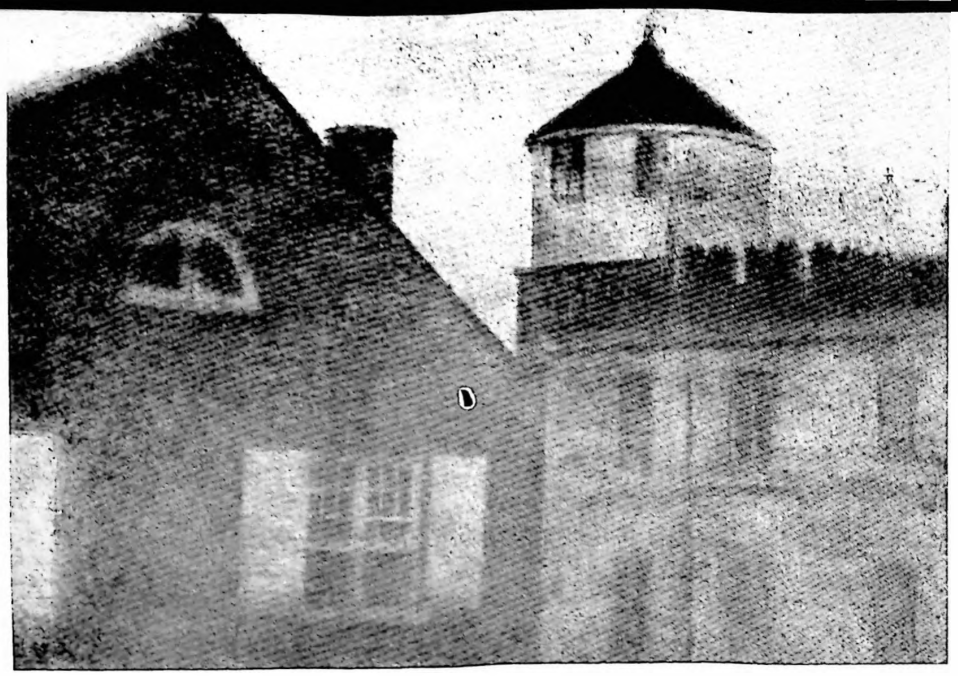


Figure 4. The oldest American photograph extant, made in 1839 by Joseph Saxton, pictures the old Arsenal and Central High School, which occupied the site of the present Wanamaker store.

members of the Museum and to other individuals doing research in the preparation of books, articles, or academic theses.

Traveling Exhibits and Publications

Among the traveling exhibits arranged by the Museum, the most outstanding was *A Half Century of Color*, which was shown in Dayton, Ohio; Erie, Pennsylvania; New York City; Cincinnati; and Philadelphia. Concurrently with that exhibition, in 1951, a book of the same title, written by Dr. Louis Walton Sipley, the director of the Museum, was published by the Macmillan Company. Other books published by the Museum are the following: *A Collector's Guide to American Photography; Frederic E. Ives*, a biography; and *The Photomechanical Halftone*, all written by Dr. Sipley; and *Memoirs of a Photo-Chemist*, written by the late Dr. Fritz Wentzel and edited by Dr. Sipley.

Special Projects

A special project undertaken by the Museum early in its history involved Philadelphia's first photograph. This historical gem—the oldest American photograph extant—is a daguerreotype made on October 16, 1839, by Joseph Saxton, an engraver at the United States Mint, which was then located at the northwest corner of Juniper and Chestnut Streets, on the site of the present Widener Building. The photograph (Figure 4), which was taken from the Mint, shows the old Arsenal and Central High School, which then occupied the site of the present Wanamaker store. Having been heedlessly stored away with miscellaneous material, this unique picture had suffered many abrasions and scratches before it was discovered and identified in 1939 by Dr. Louis Walton Sipley. The following year Dr. Sipley became a co-founder of the American Museum of Photography, and one of the projects adopted by the new Museum was the making of a photographically-restored negative of this daguerreotype. By eliminating the scratches and abrasions without changing the design, the Museum restored the original appearance of Philadelphia's first photograph. The original picture is now preserved in the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

In 1955 the American Museum of Photography began working on a very different type of project—one aimed at establishing an International Photography Hall of Fame. A committee of twenty-two photographic historians and research scientists throughout Europe and the United States was formed to select the one hundred most important scientists and inventors in the history of photography. Over five years was spent in making these selections. The impressive list of names thus compiled, when it is announced, will be found to include two names that are familiar to Germantown—John Carbutt and Max Levy.

Subsequent years have been spent in compiling biographies of those selected, and in locating portraits of them. These tasks have now been completed, and a publisher is being sought to put the material into book form.

The next project will be the selection of the world's greatest photographic practitioners.

Conclusion

Maintaining its galleries and reference collection, assembling temporary exhibits, publishing research findings, and engaging in special projects, the American Museum of Photography has grown to be a recognized authority in the field of photographic history and a research center for scholars working in the field.

At the time of its incorporation the Museum established various grades of membership, through which, along with contributions, it expected to receive the financial support necessary for its continuance. Fortunately, the Museum was set up with objectives along national lines which attract support from institutions and individuals outside of Philadelphia. This outside support is most important in furthering the work of the Museum.

The galleries of the Museum are open to visitors, without charge, every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,

(Continued on page 123)

Dr. Christopher Witt, Citizen Extraordinary (1675 - 1765)

By MARGARET B. TINKCOM

AMONG the early settlers of Germantown were several men of remarkable intellectual capacity and wide interests. Of these, Dr. Christopher Witt is perhaps the least known and surely one of the most interesting. Witt, an Englishman by birth, arrived at Germantown in 1704 and associated himself at first with the small group of mystics headed by Johannes Kelpius (1673–1708).[1] It is not surprising that this group, known as the Hermits of the Wissahickon, should have attracted Dr. Witt, for the latter came from an England that was in a state of religious and philosophical ferment. There, in the second half of the seventeenth century, all sorts of ideas were in the air. These ranged from the mysticism and religious enthusiasm of people like the Quakers to the disciplined, intellectual exercises of scientists and philosophers like Isaac Newton. Christopher Witt seems to have touched both extremes in his own career.

His practice of the astrologer's art of horoscopy earned him the title of *Hexmeister*[2] among his fellow Germantowners, and his translations of some of Kelpius' poems attest to his interest in the ideas of this member of the Wissahickon Pietists.[3] But Dr. Witt was a skilled artisan, as well as a mystic and an intellectual, and Kelpuis serves us as a bridge between the arcane and the wordly concerns of this extraordinary citizen. Both the occult and the mundane interests of Dr. Witt are reflected in a small oil portrait,[4] painted by him, which shows Kelpuis, the mystic, seated in a wooden armchair before a desk on which an open book is lying. On the wall behind the desk hangs a clock, quite probably made by the same Christopher Witt who painted the portrait.

This clock is one of those called *Wand-uhren*, that is, a clock regulated by a long pendulum and operated by fifteen- or twenty-pound weights suspended from chains. According to George Eckhardt, author of *Pennsylvania Clocks and Clockmakers*, Witt occupied himself with clockmaking in the winters, when the weather limited his botanical pursuits.[5] In any event, he is known to have made tall clocks, of which the *Wand-uhren* were forerunners, and tower clocks, which were installed in steeples or on public buildings, and mathematical instruments from about 1710 to 1765.[6] Christopher Saur, the elder, learned the clockmaker's trade from Witt before setting up as a printer. Another of Witt's pupils was Robert Claymer, or Claymore, who is mentioned as having worked as a clockmaker in Philadelphia between 1765 and 1780.[7]

Claymer was a onetime slave owned by Witt and given his freedom by the terms of Witt's will. It is interesting, incidentally, that Witt, with his mystical leanings and residence in a community that produced the first formal American protest against slavery (1688), should himself have owned a slave. Perhaps it was due to Witt's Germantown associations that he provided so handsomely for Claymer's future, bequeathing to the slave not only his personal freedom, but considerable property as well. This property included Witt's land on Keyser's Lane (Washington Lane) with all the improvements thereon, a good deal of household furniture, including "my Great Clock which stricks the quarters," and "all my tools, instruments, and Utinsels, belonging or apportaining to the making of Clocks."[8]

Art and religion, science and clockmaking all concerned this protean man, Dr. Christopher Witt. He styled himself, in his will, "Practitioner of Phisyick," and it was as a scientist, particularly as a botanist, that he was best known to his contemporaries. Among his correspondents was Peter Collinson, member of the Royal Society and friend of Franklin and of John Bartram, to whom Witt regularly sent plants.[9] Witt also maintained a botanical garden at his home, adjoining that of Francis Daniel Pastorious, in Germantown.[10] Perhaps it was a mutual interest in botany that led Thomas Morrey, "of Cheltenham, gent." to bequeath his microscope to Witt in 1735.[11]

In addition to being a botanist, Witt was, as might be expected of a scientist-clockmaker, a student of astronomy. He described the Great Comet of 1743 and made his own eight-foot telescope for astronomical observations.[12] This is probably the telescope, valued at £1. 10 shillings, which is mentioned in the inventory of his effects, printed below. Witt was also well-known in Philadelphia for his interest in music and for his musical instruments—he may have made the organ and virginals listed in the same inventory. Music, astronomy, and clockmaking are related arts, since all have time as an essential component, but by no means were all early American clockmakers either astronomers or musicians.

Christopher Witt's will clearly indicates one more characteristic of this extraordinary citizen, namely, the breadth of his concern for his fellow men, particularly for those who were less fortunate than he. Witt's manumission of Claymer has been mentioned; his gift of £60 in cash to the Pennsylvania Hospital "towards the Support of the poor in the said Hospital" also stands as evidence of a kindly generosity.

Dr. Tinkcom serves the city of Philadelphia as historian of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. She is co-author of the book Historic Germantown from the Founding to the Early Part of the Nineteenth Century, *which was published in 1955.*

The Will of Christopher Witt

The following is a complete and exact transcript of Christopher Witt's will, dated November 7, 1761, and proved on February 4, 1765:[13]

IN THE name of God Amen. I Christopher Witt of German town, in the County of Philadelphia And Province of Pennsylvania: Practitioner of Phisyick, being weak of Body, but by the Mercy of God, of sound mind and Memory Calling to mind the mortality of the body and the uncertainty there of; do here by make and ordain this my last will and Testamint in manner following

First, I recommend my soul to the hands of Almighty God and my Body to the Earth to be buried in a Christian, and decent manner.[14] And as touching my worldly Affairs it is my will, and I do hereby dispose of the Same in manner and form following.

Secondly, it is my will, and I do hereby order that all and singular my Just debts, and funeral expences shall be fully paid by my Executors hereafter named.

Thirdly, I will and bequeath unto a Certain William Yeats (commonly Called my relation) the Just and full sum of one English Shilling to be paid with in one Year after my decease if demanded.

Fourthly, I bequeath unto George Warner if living all my wearing apparil, or value there of in other Clothing to be delivered to him at Certain periods as he shall have occasion for his own wearing, but not to sell, or dispose of any part thereof.[15]

Fifthly, I bequeath unto Christiana Hirst, alias Sabol, the sum of thirty Shillings, in lieu of a small Counterpin bequeathed to her in a former will.

Sixthly, I bequeath unto the Pennsylvania Hospital the sum of Sixty pounds, cash that is now in the hands of Leonard Frelick, to be applied by the Managers of the said Hospital in the City of Philadelphia towards the Support of the poor in the said Hospital.

Seventhly It is my will, and I do hereby fully and absolutely manumit and make free from me my heirs Executors and Administrators and every of them, My Molatoe Servant man Robert, (Commonly known by the name of Robert Claymer) for ever from his Slavery, and Servitude, in every respect immediately after my discease. he, the said Robert, Complying with the Conditions of the Act of Assembly in that Case made and provided.

Eightly, I will and bequeath unto the said Molatoe Robert tohim [*sic*] his heirs and Assigns for ever, A certain Tract, or parcel of land, lying and being in the Township of German Town and County of Philadelphia, Situated upon the North side of alane [*sic*], Commonly called Kysers lane, it being a piece of land I bought of Adam Holt and his wife, with all the improvements thereon.

Ninthly, I give and bequeath unto the said Molatoe Robert all my tools, instruments, and Utinsels, belonging or apportaining to the making of Clocks. Also a feather bed and bedstead, a bolster, pillow, and other furniture Sufficient for one bed. Also my Great Clock which stricks the quarters. Also, all the Houshold goods belonging to me which shall be found At the time of my dicease in my old House where I formerly lived, Next door below Andrew Kysers[16] (alias Pistorias) that is to say, two Chairs, a black wallnut Table, A Chest of drawers, a press-Cubbard, with all that is contained in the same. Also all other the goods and Effects of mine which shall be found in the same old House at the time of my decease.

And as touching the residue of all my Estate both real and personal, (not otherwise herein before disposed of) it is my will, and I do hereby Give, devise, and bequeath the same unto my well beloved friend Christian Warner of German Town, in the County of Philadelphia; with whom I now live, to him, his heirs, and Assigns forever. lastly, my will is that if any of the legatees mentioned in this my last will and testament, Shall attempt, to set aside, or over throw this will, by any suit at law, that them, such Legatee, or Legatees, shall be cut off by my Executors here after named with one English Shilling paid to him, or them, upon such failure.

And I do hereby nominate Constitute and appoint my loving friends, Richard Johnson, and Christian Warner both of German Town and County afs^{d}, to be the Executors of this my last will and Testament utterly disalowing and revoking all other and former Wills and testaments by me made here to fore. Here by ratifiing and Confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In Witness where of Ihave [*sic*] here unto set my hand and Seal this Seventh of November one thousand seven hundred and sixty one

Signed, Sealed, Published and
pronounced by the afs^{d}, Christopher Witt
as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at his instance and request,
and in his presence have set our Names as
Witnesses to the Same

Chris.^{r} Witt [seal]

. . . Hugh Neill . . .

Cawls [?] Winowsolt [?] Cha^{s}. Witherholls Jun^{r}.

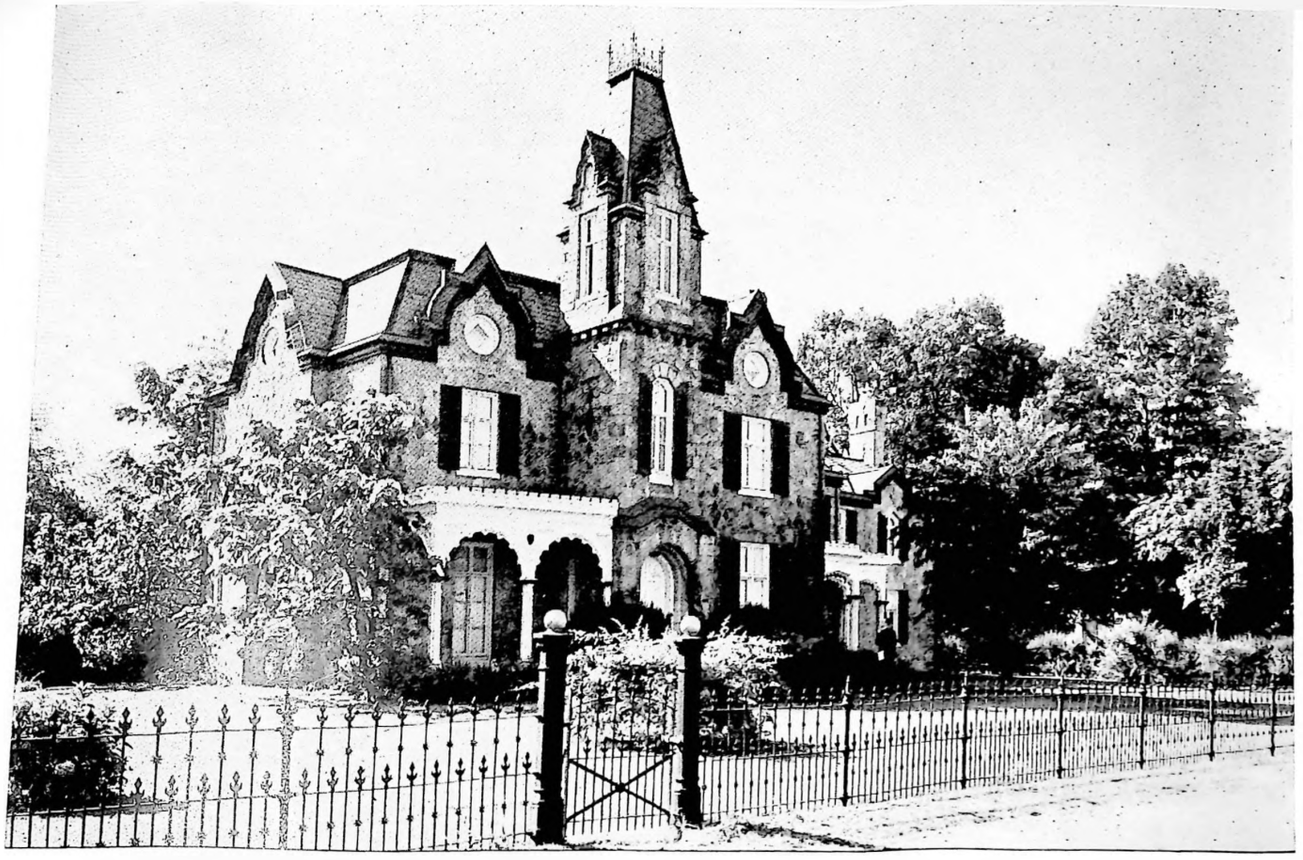
Jn^{o}: Knor . . .

Probate Notation

Philad.^{a} Feby. 4th/ 1765, Then Personally appeared Charles Witherholls and Jn^{o}. Knor two of the witnesses to y^{e} foregoing Will and the said Cha^{s}. Witherholls on Oath and Jn^{o}. Knor on his Solemn affirmation according to Law did respectively declare and affirm they saw & heard Christopher Witt the Testator therein named Sign Seal Publish & declare the same Will for & as his last Will & Testament, and that at the doing thereof he was of Sound Mind Memory and Understanding to the best of their Knowledge

Coram W^{m}. Plumsted . . .

(*Continued on page 124*)



Atop the slate-tiled tower at 200 West Tulpehocken Street, a tiny traceried parapet protrudes against the sky. Five pointed dormers burst from the mansard roof of the building with blatant angularity. The walls are everywhere enlivened with subtle parallelograms of stone.

200 West Tulpehocken Street

By RICHARD S. FULLER

Photographs by Jack E. Boucher

Courtesy, Historic American Buildings Survey

EVEN a cursory glance at 200 West Tulpehocken Street would suggest that it was conjured up out of the imagination of Charles Addams. The brief of title, however, shows no Addams having owned the house; the city directories list no Addams at that address. As if to right this wrong, the local nickname for the building is the "Charles Addams House."

The house was, in fact, built for an Ebenezer Maxwell, merchant. Maxwell purchased a rather sizeable lot from John Fallon, attorney at law, on November 17, 1858. The purchase price was $3,750.00, and here is what Maxwell received for his money: a lot situated on the southeasterly side of Tulpehocken Street and the southwesterly side of Greene Street with a frontage on Tulpehocken Street of one hundred and fifty feet and a depth of two hundred and ninety-one feet four inches.[1] The city directories tell us that Ebenezer Maxwell had his business at 123 Chestnut Street and his residence in Germantown, but not until 1860 is Maxwell's home listed at Greene and Tulpehocken.[2]

After occupying the premises for about two years, Ebenezer Maxwell and Anna G., his wife, on October 20, 1862, sold their stone dwelling and the greater part of the lot described above, now being one hundred and fifty feet in front by two hundred and seventeen feet more or less in depth, to Rosalia C. Hunter, wife of William Hunter, Jr. The price was $7,000.00.[3] According to the city directories, William Hunter, Jr., lived in the house from 1863 through 1867. The 1868–69 directory, however, indicates that he had died, as Rosalia Hunter is identified as a widow and is so listed at the address through 1873.[4]

On January 24, 1870, Rosalia Cecilia Hunter granted the house in trust to Alexander Allan and William Underdown.[5] Alexander Allan subsequently died, in October of 1874; and in 1900 William Underdown asked to be released as surviving trustee. In his place as trustee, the Court of Common Pleas appointed The Real Estate Title Insurance and Trust Company of Philadelphia.[6]

By 1874 Rosalia Hunter had remarried, and the



White wooden columns support the studded battlement of an ornate and angular veranda. Long louvered shutters flank the tall Victorian casements.

city directory for that year lists her husband, Howard A. Stevenson, at the Germantown address.[7] Rosalia (or Rosalie) Cecilia Stevenson died on or about April 6, 1910, having made and published her will on January 22, 1900, therein directing that her estate be equally divided between her husband and her daughter, Augusta Rosalie Hamilton.[8] On April 12, 1911, Augusta Rosalie Hamilton, with her husband and the above-mentioned trustee, granted the house to Howard A. Stevenson,[9] who owned the premises for the next twenty years.

On March 4, 1931, Howard A. Stevenson died, leaving a will dated December 21, 1921, wherein he devised the house to his daughter, Augusta Rosalie Hamilton, and three step-children, Helena Houston, Frances A. Kingston, and Allan Hunter, as tenants in common.[10] Stevenson devised to his daughter two other properties, a seashore home in Newport, Rhode Island, called "Hawthorne Villa" and a New York City dwelling at 61 East Fifty-Fifth Street, with the request that his daughter not let either house remain unoccupied "for a longer period than two years at any one time."[11] There was no such clause regarding the Germantown property.

The property was owned by Stevenson's heirs for the next twenty-five years. His daughter, Augusta R. Hamilton, later called Stiver and later Stevenson, died on January 2, 1956, leaving a will wherein she devised her one-fourth part of the property to the American Red Cross.[12] This provision of the will was executed on November 20, 1956.[13] About a year later, on October 21, 1957, the American National Red Cross joined with the surviving heirs of Howard A. Stevenson to grant the property, for $19,000.00, to the Greenwood Warehousing Corporation.[14] And on May 4, 1964, the Greenwood Warehousing Corporation granted the property to the current owner, the Unitarian Universalist House of the Joseph Priestley District, for $30,000.00.[15]

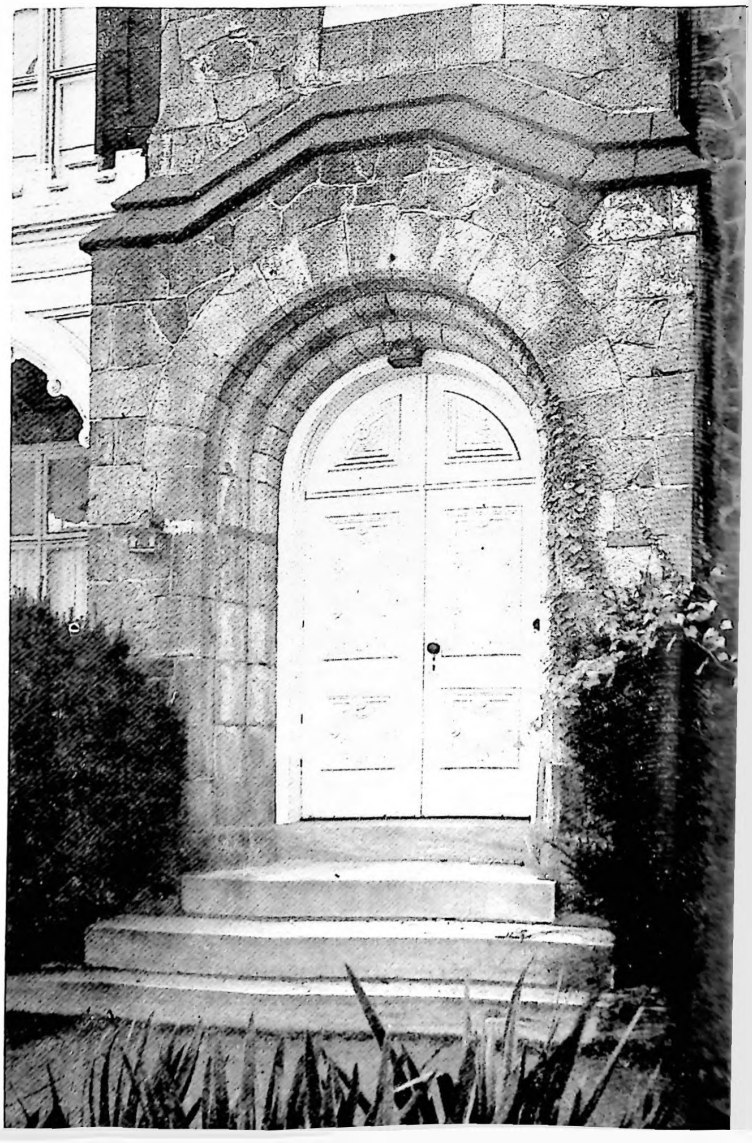
Although no one now lives in the house and its nickname derives from a ghoulish and charming imaginary family, you could not convince the writer, at dusk of a fall evening, that Morticia was not hovering, gauze-like, in an upstairs window. Ebenezer Maxwell, practical merchant, could not have known in 1858 that he would be making the double contribution of enriching the Victorian architectural landscape and giving free flight to that puckish imaginary one.

NOTES

[1]Deed Book A.D.B., No. 42, p. 399. (The deeds and the will herein mentioned are recorded at Philadelphia; the page cited in each instance is that upon which the instrument begins.)
[2]*McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory*, 1859 through 1862.
[3]Deed Book A.C.H., No. 71, p. 380.
[4]*McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory*, 1863 through 1867; *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory*, 1868–69 through 1873.
[5]Deed Book J.A.H., No. 12, p. 489.
[6]Recited in Deed Book W.S.V., No. 1420, p. 487.
[7]*Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory*, 1874.
[8]Recited in Deed Book W.S.V., No. 1420, p. 487.
[9]Deed Book W.S.V., No. 1420, p. 487.
[10]Recited in Deed Book C.A.B., No. 686, p. 473.
[11]Will of Howard A. Stevenson (1931 Will No. 1093), Will Book No. 552, p. 470.
[12]Recited in Deed Book C.A.B., No. 686, p. 473.
[13]Deed Book C.A.B., No. 499, p. 243.
[14]Deed Book C.A.B., No. 686, p. 473.
[15]Deed Book C.A.D., No. 169, p. 249.

This paper is based on research completed by the writer for the PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

Rolling lines and studded panels characterize the geometric, double-leafed front door, set in a magnificent, round-headed, stone arch.



HAPPENINGS IN GERMANTOWN
October 1963–October 1964

By Phoebe Carlile Kidder

Local Weather

OCTOBER, 1963—a month to remember! Wondrously clear and colorful, and as warm as summer. The few clouds in the autumn sky were for beauty only; they withheld the life-giving rain so desperately needed on the parched earth. The drought caused parks to be closed to campers and hunters for the first time in eleven years, and the third time in history.

But the revolution of the seasons is relentless, and the balminess of autumn inevitably yielded to the chilling blast of winter. With weather, as with all things else, the tastes of human beings are diverse. The quickening air thus brought delight and anguish. Some wishful thinkers watched their flowerbeds for harbingers of an early end to winter, but just as the dainty white flowers known as snowdrops appeared to be replacing the frosty phenomenon from which they take their name, a three-inch snowfall came on February 10. To add insult to injury, five more inches of snow arrived the following day.

But, again, the revolution of the seasons was running its course, and, as the snow melted away, there were the perky little snowdrops holding high their heads. And so, the verdure of spring burst forth and pervaded the local scene, while the atmosphere glowed with new warmth that gradually intensified into the heat of summer. A sultry sun reduced the pace of life; vacations were the order of the day. But desultory summer, soon enough, was met with its successor. The autumn-colored atmosphere took sway, completing the historic local year, the skies becoming "ashen and sober," the leaves becoming "crisped and sere."

Historic Buildings

During the year the Germantown Historical Society added two historically-significant houses to its real-estate holdings. The purchase of these buildings and their subsequent maintenance were made possible through the generous bequest of the late Miss Eliza R. Finckel, a long-time member of the Society, whose memory is now perpetuated by a plaque installed in the Museum. The first of the two houses thus acquired was the Christopher Mason House, 6514 Germantown Avenue (above Upsal Street). The oldest section of this structure is said to have been built in 1737 and used by the British during the battle of Germantown. The main section of the building—that which fronts on Germantown Avenue—was built in 1798 by Christopher Mason. (A history of the house appeared in the March, 1964, issue of the Germantowne Crier.) The purchase of the Mason House was transacted in November, 1963.

This transaction was followed in January, 1964, by the acquisition of The Laurens, also known as the Shippen-Blair House, at 6043 Germantown Avenue (corner of Walnut Lane). The main section of this structure is three-and-a-half stories high; tradition holds that it was the earliest building in Germantown to rise above the height of two-and-a-half stories. Documentary and structural evidence suggests that the main section of the house was built during the second quarter of the eighteenth century by Christian Warmer, the younger, as an addition to an earlier, less pretentious dwelling. (A history of the house appeared in the September, 1964, issue of the Germantowne Crier.)

Historic buildings were highlighted in Germantown twice during the year, when a number of them were opened to tourists. The first of these events was the annual walking tour sponsored by the Germantown Historical Society as a part of the Germantown Week celebration. This tour took place on May 16 and included a number of houses and churches along Germantown Avenue. The other tour, however, was something new and different. Sponsored by the West Central Germantown Neighbors, it was held on September 26 and featured Victorian houses on Tulpehocken Street, Walnut Lane, and other streets nearby. The exterior appearance of these houses has remained largely unchanged since their construction, though the interior decorations reflect the interesting personalities of the present owners. Architectural features common among these buildings include ornate exterior woodwork around cornices and porch roofs; tall windows, extending, in some cases, to the level of the floor; high-ceilinged rooms; vast expanses of uncluttered, plastered interior walls; and marble fireplaces. Germantown is proud of its fine Victorian heritage as well as its colonial architecture.

Public Facilities

During the summer, traffic was detoured off of Germantown Avenue between School House Lane and Johnson Street to allow for sewer construction. The eighty-nine-year-old brick sewer formerly in place under Germantown Avenue was replaced with reinforced concrete pipes. Buses replaced the trolleys on "Route 23" during the period when the street was torn up.

The State has erected a medial barrier on the winding Wissahickon Drive, just north of the Gustine

Lake interchange. This improvement is expected to reduce the possibility of traffic accidents on a critical section of highway.

The United States Department of the Interior has announced the selection of the Wissahickon Valley portion of Fairmount Park as one of the first areas in the country to be placed on its newly-created list known as the National Registry of Natural History Landmarks.

In 1957, eighteen swans were imported from Holland to grace our Schuylkill River. However, they got into so much trouble going over the dam that they were moved to the Wissahickon Creek the following year. Now, some seven years later, only one remains of the original eighteen, many misfortunes having overtaken the others.

The Germantown Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, located in Vernon Park, is now brightened by newly-installed spotlights. The illumination has encouraged an increased evening patronage of the library.

The construction of a new playground at Haines and Baynton Streets adds a much-needed facility in the Morton section. The center will contain areas for all age groups.

Religious and Educational Institutions

The Lutheran Theological Seminary, at Germantown and Gowen Avenues, is marking its one-hundredth anniversary and its seventy-sixth year at the present location. Today there are many buildings on the Seminary's campus, which extends northeastward from Germantown Avenue through to Boyer Street.

The Wakefield Presbyterian Church, located at Germantown Avenue and Wyneva Street, celebrated its ninetieth year in May. The cornerstone of the present edifice was laid in 1880.

The 250-year-old Market Square Presbyterian Church is staging its own renewal program. A big wooden porch has been removed from the front of the manse, revealing the attractive gray stone building with its large bay window. A low stone wall topped with an iron railing adds to the attractiveness of the premises. Many projects are under way in the renovation of the Church.

The edifice of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Saint John the Baptist, located at Germantown Avenue and Seymour Street, has been certified by the Philadelphia Historical Commission as an historically-significant building. The Church was founded in 1855.

One of the most unusual Christmas plays ever attempted by a school was presented by the Germantown Friends School. The Rev. Robert W. Hill, rector of Saint Luke's Church, in Germantown, invited the School to present its Christmas play, "A Play of Daniel," in the church sanctuary, a setting which added much to the impressiveness of the production. The play was sung in Latin and accompanied by a narration in English given by four of the student actors. This was the first time that the play had been given in this country outside of New York.

In November, the *Illustrated London News* devoted a four-page tribute to the William Penn Charter School, a distinguished private institution located on School House Lane between Wissahickon Avenue and Henry Avenue. The article recounted the progress of the School from its founding to the present time.

The Germantown Academy received a gift of $100,000 to be applied toward the erection of a new kindergarten building at its Fort Washington campus.

The Ford Foundation has granted $50,000 for the Educational Facilities Laboratory study of the Germantown schools.

During the summer plans were made to have the fourth and fifth grades of the public schools in District Six visit the old houses in Germantown.

Medical Institutions

The hospitals in the vicinity of Germantown render indispensable services to the community, and the community, in turn, is active in the support of its hospitals. There are women's boards and committees which work diligently throughout the year to amass large sums in donations, which they turn over to the hospitals. This financial support is supplemented by the proceeds of annual fairs sponsored by the local hospitals to raise funds for special projects and equipment. The Woman's Medical College Hospital holds a fair in the spring; Germantown Hospital's Rose Carnival takes place in June; and the Main Street Fair, sponsored by Chestnut Hill Hospital, is held in October.

The Germantown Dispensary and Hospital, better known simply as Germantown Hospital, continues to progress in its modernization program, designed to continue advances in patient care, education, and research. The Hospital's facilities at Penn and Wister Streets have already been increased by the provision of modern quarters for interns and residents, an excellent medical staff library, a classroom, and several conference rooms. The renovation and refurnishing of hospital rooms has continued during the year, and construction has begun of a new maintenance and engineering building as well as an out-patient diagnostic and treatment center. Germantown Hospital, continuing its 101-year history of community service, looks to the future with this progressive theme: "Tomorrow begins today."

The formation of a community-sponsored, volunteer ambulance association in Germantown, Mount Airy, and Chestnut Hill has met with an enthusiastic response. The volunteers include drivers, dispatchers, nurses, attendants, and administrative officials. More volunteers are always welcome.

Other Institutions

The Germantown Arts Association has been officially organized with the election of officers and committee chairmen. This action is to be followed by in-

corporation and the acquisition of a twenty-eight-room mansion at 269 West Walnut Lane. The building will serve as the organization's headquarters, galleries, and workshops.

The Germantown Community Council sponsored a summer work program to provide jobs for teen-age boys in the Germantown area. After a period of training, the thirty-two participants in this so-called Gypsy Program worked under supervision renovating various properties. The Germantown Historical Society cooperated in the plan.

Local banking facilities have recently been supplemented by the opening of two new branch offices. The Germantown Savings Bank opened an office at 156–158 West Chelten Avenue in the fall of 1963. This banking office is notable for its attractive interior decorations, neatly offsetting a display of paintings. The other new facility was added by the Girard Trust Bank, which opened a branch in Chestnut Hill, at 8618 Germantown Avenue.

The Germantown Post Office was one of the first in the United States to begin local mail deliveries. That was one hundred years ago. The anniversary was marked by the issuance of a first-day cover and a new stamp designed by Norman Rockwell. In the long history of the Post Office many developments have contributed to the automation of mail-handling. A recent innovation is the use of Zip Code numbers to speed the delivery of mail. It is unfortunate, however, that a number of local mailboxes were recently removed. In some instances there were so many complaints from local residents that the boxes were reinstalled.

Social Functions

Early in December the Women's Committee of the Morris House gave a tea at the Morris House for the members of the Board of Managers of the Germantown Historical Society and other special friends. The glow of candlelight and the neatly-arranged bouquets and silver beautifully accentuated the new draperies that had just been added to the rooms on the first floor. The purchase of these draperies was made possible through the card parties given each year by the Women's Committee. This year's card party, the ninth, was held at Vernon on March 16. It was a lovely day, and the attendance was gratifying.

In April a bridge party and tea was given at the home of the Colonial Dames, on Latimer Street, for the benefit of Grumblethorpe. It was a huge success.

In May the Germantown Community Council and the Germantown and Chestnut Hill Soroptimist Club sponsored the Senior Citizens' Hobby Show, which was held at the First Presbyterian Church. The show was creditable indeed, with hobbies ranging from rug-making and ceramics to the collecting of coins, buttons, and dolls. The event included a musical program, which was followed by refreshments.

The annual card party for the benefit of Upsala was held on May 20. The weather was a bit on the cool side, but a goodly number of card players turned out.

The Germantown Historical Society's annual garden party took place on June 4. Those attending—a large number, as usual—enjoyed a program featuring the Little Choir of the Germantown Friends School, well-known for its excellence. The Choir has sung with the Philadelphia Orchestra and has made two concert tours in Europe.

The Germantown Cricket Club played host this year to the "Second Annual Ladies' International Tennis Team Competition for the Federation Cup." The event was held from the second through the fifth of September, with twenty nations competing. At the inaugural competition, held last year in England, the United States won the cup. This year Australia was victorious over the American defenders.

People in the News

Miss Mary E. Brewer, head of the Music Department of the Germantown Friends School, was one of five secondary-school teachers from five states, each of whom received a prize of one thousand dollars at the annual Yale Parents Day ceremonies. The recipients were presented with awards and citations.

Mr. Frank Delany has been named the new executive director of the Germantown Community Council. He comes to the position with a background of work in community affairs.

Dr. John F. Gummere, Headmaster of the William Penn Charter School, was presented with the School's Alumni Society Award. The Award is given to a graduate who has reflected great credit upon the School.

Mr. J. Malcolm Henderson, President of Kirk and Nice, was elected president of the Germantown Businessmen's Association for 1964.

Dr. Glen R. Leymaster has been appointed president and dean of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Catharine Macfarlane was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award of the 32 Carat Club. It was the first time in the Club's thirty-three-year history that the award was presented to a woman.

Mr. Henri G. Marceau, retired director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and a former member of the Board of Managers of the Germantown Historical Society, was named the 1964 winner of the Philadelphia Art Alliance Medal of Achievement for his instrumental role in developing "one of the truly outstanding art museums in the western world."

A young teen-ager, the daughter of a prominent Mount Airy doctor, has quite stolen the movie spotlight. Merrie Spaeth, a student at the Germantown Friends School, was selected for a role in the film "The World of Henry Orient," which stars Peter Sellers. The film was shown in the Easter presentation at Radio City Music Hall, and it was also the United States entry at the Cannes Festival.

Mr. Thomas von Trott, a member of the Board of

Managers of the Germantown Historical Society, has completed twenty beautifully enameled automobile identification plates for the Army Chiefs of Staff.

Mr. Henry Lee Willet, President of the Willet Stained-Glass Studios, at Chestnut Hill, was honored by the American Institute of Architects for "distinguished service to the arts."

In January, Germantown lost one of its most prominent and beloved educators, Stanley Yarnall. First as a teacher, later as principal, he served the Germantown Friends School for forty-three years, after which he held the position of principal emeritus. Under his guidance the School became nationally-known and more than trebled its enrollment.

The Germantown Historical Society regrets to report the loss, by death, of the following members: Mrs. Robert J. Carson, Mr. Gilbert C. Fry, Mr. Henry F. Goldsmith, Mrs. J. J. Inch, Mrs. William Clarke Mason, Mrs. Tolbert N. Richardson, Mr. Thomas J. Ryan, Mr. William C. Tuttle.

Random Observations

Germantown Week, May 9 through 17, was celebrated this year without the usual fair day. Instead, separate events—thirty of them—focused on the vitality of Germantown as a community.

The new radio station, WDVR, which is Germantown's own, has become a great favorite among local listeners in the few months since its establishment. Its policy of playing familiar music with a minimum of commercials is popular indeed.

The "new look" that came with the *Germantown Courier* on August 20 was truly a welcome change. Printed by offset, the newspaper now has much sharper pictures and type that is easier to read. The Hickerson Newspapers are to be congratulated on this improvement.

Robertson's Flower Shop in Chestnut Hill had a difficult time when the wall of an old building at the rear of the property collapsed and fell into an excavation which was being made preliminary to the erection of a new building. A cocker spaniel, the pet of one of the employees, was caught in the debris, and four hours elapsed before the dog could be released. Fortunately the canine victim came through unscathed.

The Germantown Historical Society's annual excursion took place on October 17. The itinerary, which was, as usual, interestingly planned, included a visit to the Nathaniel Newlin Gristmill, at Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. This quaint, rugged structure—a fine example of early mill construction—has a datestone which indicates that it was built in 1704. In 1959 the mill was restored to its original appearance and opened as a tourist attraction. After enjoying a box lunch, the tour group continued in its chartered bus, through the countryside of Chester County to Longwood Gardens, at Kennett Square. Here thousands of chrysanthemums created a brilliant autumn spectacle. It was a delightful way to end our historical year—surrounded by so much beauty.

Love's Fulfillment

By Martha D. Tourison

In early dusk, as darkness falls,
The sky outlines a crescent moon.
The village bells are tolling time;
I know you will be coming soon.
For you who left at dawn of day
To go where cities smoke and teem,
I've spread the cloth and lit the hearth;
The table shines in candle gleam.
My step is light, my heart in tune,
For day is kind and night is blest,
When village bells have ceased to toll,
And you come home to love and rest.

Germantown Heritage

Local Traditions of
National Significance

Germantown, A Unique Community
. . . one of the earliest settlements in Pennsylvania . . .
. . . focal point of early German immigration into America . . .
. . . scene of a significant Revolutionary War battle . . .
. . . one-time seat of the Federal Government . . .
. . . sometime home of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Gilbert Stuart, Louisa May Alcott . . .

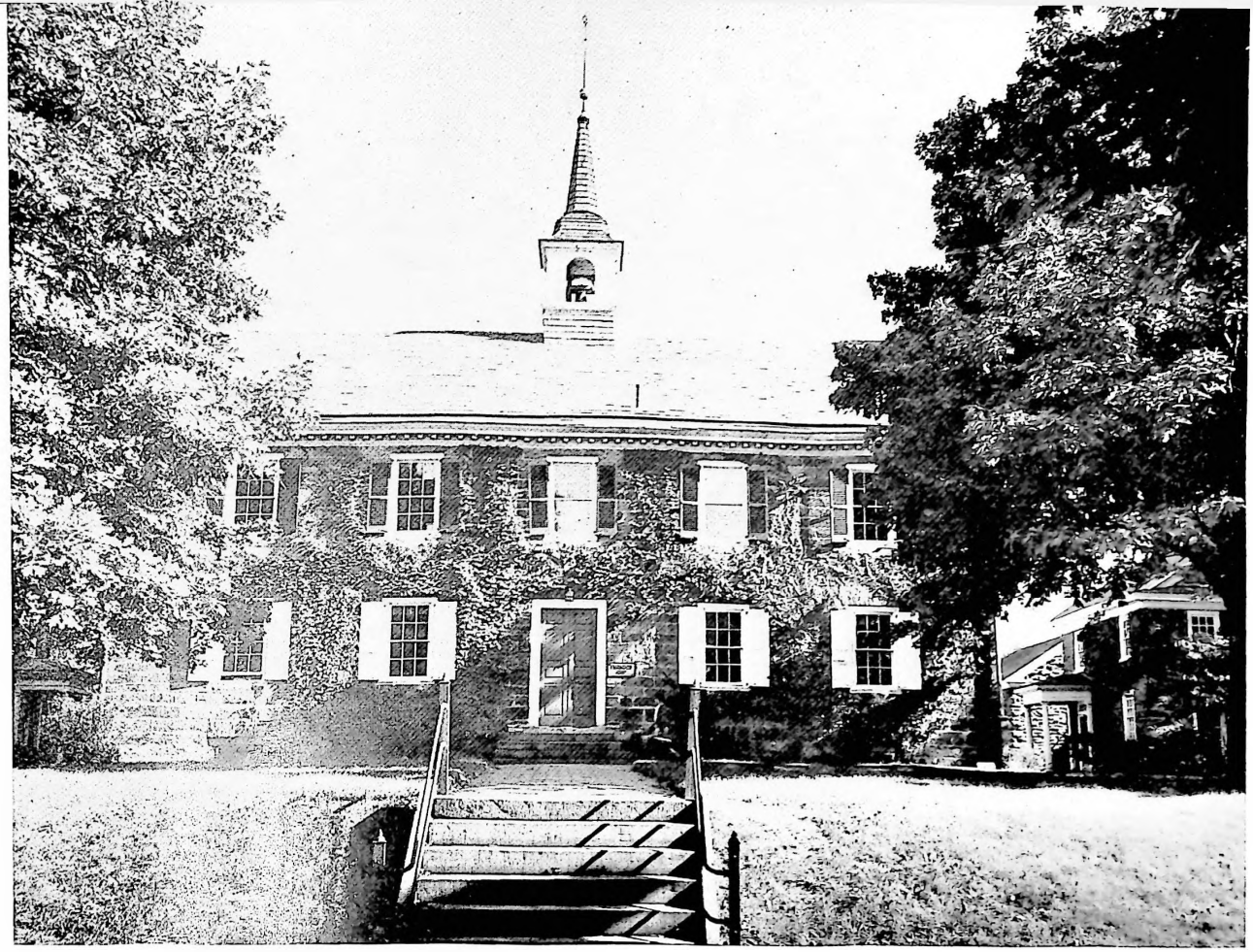
Experience the color of the past in the pages of the Germantowne Crier. Many hours of enjoyment are yours for $5.00 when you order a set of the Crier. Nearly all of the 63 numbers are currently available.

Future developments in local history and historical research will unfold in the pages of the Germantowne Crier. Coming issues of this quarterly journal can be yours at the low subscription rate of $1.00 annually.

The distinctive architectural heritage of Germantown is reviewed in detail in *Historic Germantown From the Founding to the Early Part of the Nineteenth Century*. This book (150 pages, 9½ by 12 inches), by Harry M. Tinkcom, Margaret B. Tinkcom, and Grant M. Simon, is available for $5.00. It makes an excellent gift for the Germantown enthusiast.

Please address requests, accompanied by check payable to Germantown Historical Society, to:

Edwin Iwanicki
1625 Rowan Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19140



Founding Years of the Germantown Academy

By Edwin Iwanicki

Photographs courtesy of the Philadelphia Historical Commission

During the eighteenth century, Philadelphia was, in many respects, pre-eminent among American cities. In the fields of commerce, medicine, fine arts, law, and politics, this city, more than any other, was the focal point of colonial activity. Since education is basic to cultural development, one might surmise—and correctly so—that the Philadelphia area was not lacking in excellent schools.

Several of these institutions have provided such distinguished service to the community that they remain today as prosperous and respected seats of learning. An examination of the early history of one such institution, the Germantown Academy, may yield insight into the establishment of the high educational standards which continue to enrich American life today, as they did in colonial days. Germantown Academy has been particularly celebrated as the oldest school in the United States functioning in its original building.[1] This latter distinction vanishes, however, as the school removes from Germantown to a new campus at Fort Washington.

Starting in 1754 there was a movement afoot to set up charity schools for the children of German settlers in Pennsylvania. The plan, which was conceived by George Thomas, the English governor, and promoted by several prominent citizens, among them William Allen, Benjamin Franklin, Richard Peters, William Smith, and Conrad Weiser, included teaching "the Constitution and interest of the Colonies." The Germans were thoroughly indignant at this plan because of its insult to their pride as well as its political implications. Before the movement was finally defeated in 1764, it had stirred the citizens of Germantown into organizing the Germantown Academy and thus proving that they were not, as Franklin once called the Pennsylvania Germans, "the most ignorant and stupid sort."[2]

The first step in the founding of the Germantown Academy was "a meeting of several of the inhabitants of Germantown, and places adjacent, at the house of Daniel Mackinett[3] in said town, the 6th day of December, 1759."[4] At this meeting, according to the *Minutes* of the trustees, "it was unanimously agreed upon by those present that a large, commodious schoolhouse should be erected in said town, near the centre thereof, two rooms on the lower floor whereof should be for the use of English and High Dutch or German schools, and be continued for that use, and no other, forever. . . ."[5] Before the meeting was adjourned, the following persons were appointed to

solicit subscriptions for the proposed school: Christopher Meng, Christopher Saur, Baltus Reser, Daniel Mackinett, John Jones, and Charles Bensil.[6]

On January 1, 1760, the subscribers met and appointed the following persons as trustees: Christopher Saur, Thomas Rosse, John Jones, Daniel Mackinett, Jacob Keyser, John Bowman, Thomas Livezey, David Deshler, George Absentz, Joseph Galloway, Charles Bensell, Jacob Naglee, and Benjamin Engle.[7] Richard Johnson was appointed treasurer.[8] At a meeting held on January 25, the trustees were able to report arrangements for the purchase of a lot.[9]

On February 8, the trustees met and approved specifications for the schoolhouse and masters' houses.[10] It was decided at this meeting that the school should be called the Germantown Union School House.[11] The institution was known by this name until 1784, when it was incorporated as the Public School of Germantown.[12] The name "Academy" developed through common usage.[13]

The purchase of the land chosen as the site of the school was completed on April 10, 1760, when John Bringhurst, Elizabeth, his wife, and George Bringhurst deeded to the trustees for "one hundred & twenty five Pounds lawful money of Pennsy[a]" a lot containing one acre 119 perches "be the same more or less."[14]

The erection of the school building was begun on April 21, 1760, with the laying of four cornerstones.[15] In order to complete the building, the trustees found it necessary to raise additional funds, which they did by means of a lottery of 6667 tickets at three dollars per ticket, the net proceeds amounting to three thousand dollars at fifteen per cent.[16] The two-story schoolhouse, containing six classrooms, was built of stone, its dimensions being eighty feet in front and forty feet in depth.[17] Near the schoolhouse two small houses were erected for the use of the headmasters.[18]

The Union School was opened to pupils on August 11, 1761.[19] As early as May 5, 1761, the trustees had placed an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, pointing out to Philadelphians the advantages of sending their children to school in Germantown, where the air was "recommended by the best Physicians." Here, they claimed, the pupils would be secure from the temptations of vice so common in the city.[20] This advertising seems to have been effective, for by October 16, 1761, there were seventy students enrolled in the German school and sixty-one in the English school.[21]

The headmaster of the German school was Hilarius Becker (1705–1783).[22] He was experienced in teaching German, having for several years kept a private school in Germantown.[23] Becker's agreement with the trustees provided that he should have the use of half of the schoolhouse in which to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic.[24] Becker was not paid a salary, but was allowed to fix his own tuition rates.[25] He was in charge of the German department at the Academy until 1778, when he was succeeded by John Augustus Edert.[26]

The trustees employed David James Dove (1696–1769)[27] as headmaster of the English school. Each pupil was charged forty shillings per annum, and Dove's salary was one hundred pounds.[28] The English master was permitted to supplement his income by taking some boarding pupils.[29]

Dove was an experienced pedagogue who had taught grammar for sixteen years in England before coming to Philadelphia.[30] In this city he became well-known as a teacher at the academy founded by Franklin which later became the University of Pennsylvania.[31] Dove also founded a private school for girls, thereby gaining a reputation as a pioneer in the education of women.[32] Dove was "distinguished for his cantankerous personality as well as his good teaching."[33] Judge Richard Peters, a pupil of Dove's at the Philadelphia Academy, described him many years later as a "sarcastical and ill-tempered doggrelizer," asserting that "he was called Dove ironically, for his temper was that of a hawk and his pen was the beak of a falcon pouncing on innocent prey."[34]

When he came to the Germantown Academy, Dove brought with him his "cantankerous personality" and his eccentricities. In the matter of discipline, he preferred to humiliate the pupil rather than to strike him. Instead of flogging a pupil, Dove would stick his birch rod into the back of the boy's collar and require him to stand on a desk in front of his classmates, displaying this badge of ignominy.[35] When a pupil loitered on the way to school, he would send out a group of students with a "tinkling bell and lighted lantern" to escort the tardy one.[36] Once, when late himself, Dove did not object to being so escorted, much to the delight of the boys.[37] When a pupil did not recite distinctly in class, Dove once scolded: "Why don't you speak louder? Open your mouth like a Dutchman. Say yaw!"[38]

There must have been some merit in his teaching methods, for in December, 1761, the trustees, who regularly sent a committee to visit the classes, gave Dove forty shillings for distribution "among the schoolboys in such manner as he may think proper as a gratuity for their expertness and aptitude in their learning, the Trustees present having an opportunity of hearing several of them to satisfaction."[39] At the same time, Dove, also, was given a bonus.[40]

This harmonious relationship between English master and trustees, however, was not destined long to continue. In 1763 Dove was dismissed for sundry abuses, including the boarding of twenty pupils.[41] Upon leaving his position, Dove started a rival school in a house[42] which he built next to the Academy.[43] He soon found, however, that he could not successfully compete with the Union School.[44]

In 1763 Pelatiah Webster (1725–1795) replaced Dove as English headmaster.[45] Born in New England, Webster was graduated from Yale College and served as a minister before coming to Philadelphia.[46] From

the time of his arrival in this city until his retirement from the Germantown Academy, little has been recorded of his activities. Lippincott states, however, that he was "a genius and a philosopher."[47] Leaving the Union School in 1766, Webster kept a general store in Philadelphia.[48] After the Revolutionary War, he distinguished himself by writing several significant political pamphlets, one of which, "A Dissertation on the Political Union of the Thirteen States of North America," published in 1783, is said to have been used as a guide in drafting the Constitution of the United States.[49]

Within the first few years of its existence, the Academy expanded its activities quite considerably. In 1762 a night school was added, and the following year a committee was appointed to employ a school mistress to teach girls and young children the rudiments of learning.[50] According to the *Minutes* of the trustees, the curriculum was enlarged in 1764 to include "the dead languages."[51] Higher mathematics, also, was added to the list of courses.[52]

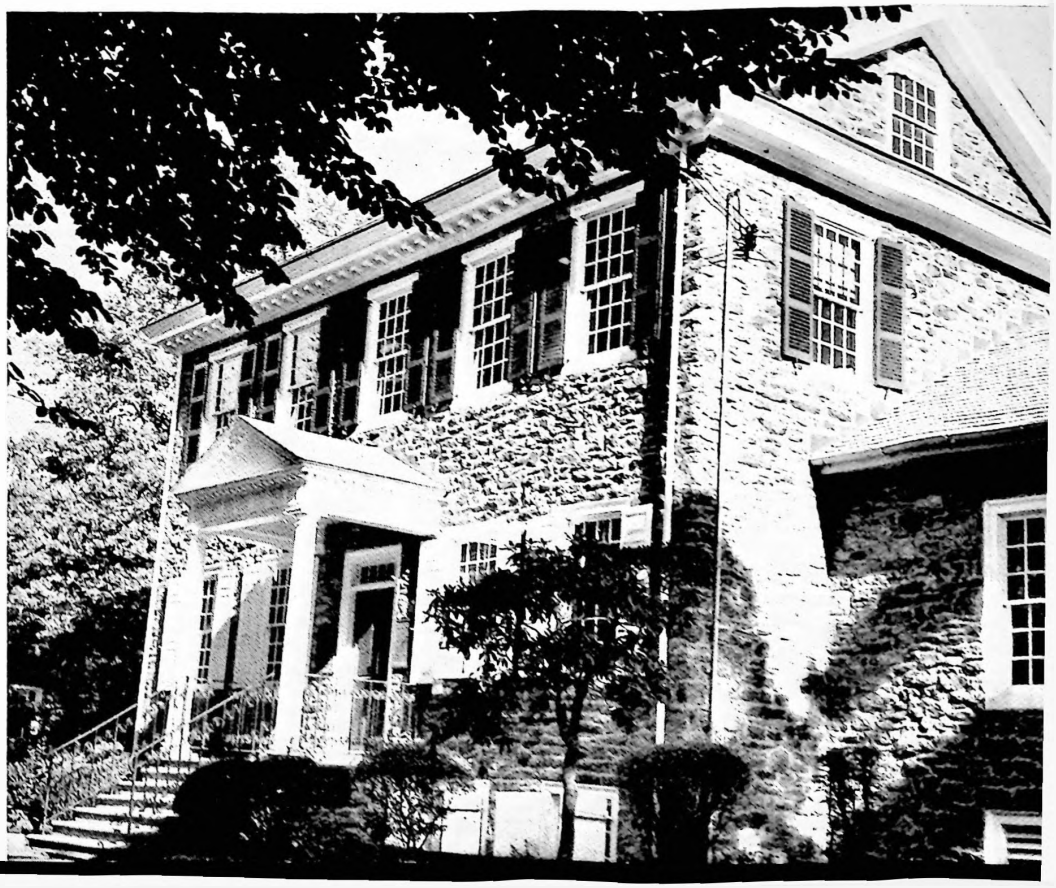
Thus, the Union School grew and prospered in the years prior to the Revolution. In August, 1777, when the school building was about to be used as a hospital for American soldiers, Israel Pemberton arranged for the accommodation of the soldiers in Philadelphia, in order that the school might continue to function.[53] By 1778, however, the school was closed "on account of the distressed times," and it did not reopen until 1784, as indicated by the trustees' *Minutes*.[54]

The Revolutionary War left the Academy in poor financial condition. The buildings were in need of repairs, and contributions were solicited. It was a bleak period in the school's history, but the sturdy citizens of Germantown had established a sturdy institution, and the early masters had developed standards of academic excellence which sustained the school through its period of crisis. Increasing enrollment, combined with contributions and legacies, strengthened the school over the years, so that by 1810 an addition to the campus became necessary.[55] From that time until the present, the history of the Germantown Academy has been one of increasing prosperity and esteem.[56]

The Academy's decision to move from Germantown to the Whitemarsh Valley took into account several factors. The great majority of students at the school were found to live in the direction toward which the Academy decided to move, and there was a need for independent educational facilities in that area. The old site of just over seven acres had become inadequate, and the traffic congestion of Germantown was considered objectionable.

Hence, the Academy accepted the offer of a suburban tract of woods and fields in the Whitemarsh Valley. The new 160-acre campus is located on Morris Road between Lafayette Avenue and Sheaff Lane, just west of the Bethlehem Pike. The new facilities are planned to accommodate more than double the former enrollment of slightly over three hundred. The institution will include a co-educational elementary school for children from nursery through sixth grade, a girls' upper school, and an upper school for boys. Formerly girls had been enrolled only in the kindergarten classes.[57]

The cornerstone at the new site was laid in October, 1960.[58] Construction of buildings on the site has since been progressing, being a process of several years' duration. Thus the move from Germantown is being accomplished gradually. The old campus with its historic buildings will be sold to an institution which will make use of the structures while preserving their historic character.



Near the main building of the Germantown Academy stands the house (130 West School House Lane) once occupied by David James Dove, first English master at the Union School.

NOTES

[1]Horace Mather Lippincott, *Early Philadelphia, Its People, Life and Progress* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1917), p. 203.

[2]This paragraph is based on Harry M. Tinkcom, Margaret B. Tinkcom, and Grant Miles Simon, *Historic Germantown from the Founding to the Early Part of the Nineteenth Century* (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1955), pp. 16–17.

[3]Daniel Mackinett's house was a popular tavern in 1759. The building still stands at 6023 Germantown Avenue.

[4]*Minutes* of the trustees, quoted in Naaman H. Keyser, C. Henry Kain, John Palmer Garber, and Horace F. McCann, *History of Old Germantown* (Philadelphia: Horace F. McCann, 1907), p. 81.

[5]William Travis, *History of the Germantown Academy: Compiled from the Minutes of the Trustees from 1760 to 1877*, Horace Wemyss Smith, ed. (Philadelphia: Ferguson Bros. and Co., 1882), p. 9.

[6]J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia, 1609–1884* (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts and Co., 1884), Vol. I, p. 254.

[7]John Fanning Watson, *Annals of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Edwin S. Stuart, 1884), Vol. III, p. 462.

[8]Keyser, *et al. op. cit.*, p. 84.

[9]Naaman Henry Keyser, *Old Historic Germantown* (Lancaster: The Pennsylvania-German Society, 1906), pp. 54–55.

[10]Travis, *op. cit.*, p. 15.

[11]*Idem.*

[12]Keyser, *Old Historic Germantown*, p. 55.

[13]Lippincott, *op. cit.*, p. 207.

[14]Deed Book H, No. 15, p. 506 ff. (Department of Records, City Hall, Philadelphia).

[15]Keyser, *Old Historic Germantown*, p. 55.

[16]Watson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 27.

[17]Scharf and Westcott, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 255.

[18]Tinkcom, *et al. op. cit.*, p. 71.

[19]Edward W. Hocker, *Germantown, 1683–1933* (Philadelphia: published by the author, 1933), p. 81.

[20]Harold E. Dickson, *A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings* (State College, Pa.: Bald Eagle Press, 1954), p. 17.

[21]Keyser, *Old Historic Germantown*, p. 55.

[22][Joseph Jackson], *A History of the Germantown Academy* (Philadelphia, 1910), facing p. 40.

[23]Keyser, *et al. History of Old Germantown*, p. 81.

[24]*Ibid*, p. 82.

[25]Travis, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

[26]Keyser, *et al. History of Old Germantown*, p. 81.

[27]Joseph Jackson, *Encyclopedia of Philadelphia* (Harrisburg: The National Historical Association, 1932), Vol. II, p. 593.

[28]Travis, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

[29]Keyser, *et al. History of Old Germantown*, p. 82.

[30]Horace Mather Lippincott, *A History of the Germantown Academy* (Philadelphia: Germantown Academy, 1935), Vol. I, p. 47.

[31]Keyser, *et al. History of Old Germantown*, p. 82.

[32]Herman LeRoy Collins, *Philadelphia, A Story of Progress* (Philadelphia: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1941), Vol. II, p. 78.

[33]Lippincott, *A History of the Germantown Academy*, Vol. II, p. xviii.

[34]Letter to Reuben Haines, dated 1823, quoted in Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer, *Philadelphia, A History of the City and Its People* (Philadelphia: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., n. d.), Vol. I, p. 210.

[35]Keyser, *et al. History of Old Germantown* pp. 82–83.

[36]*Idem.*

[37]*Idem.*

[38]*Ibid.*, p. 83.

[39]*Minutes* of the trustees, quoted in Lippincott, *A History of the Germantown Academy*, Vol. II, p. 60.

[40]*Idem.*

[41]Keyser, *et al. History of Old Germantown*, p. 82.

[42]This house, at 130 West School House Lane, later came into possession of the Germantown Academy.

[43]Watson, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 27.

[44]*Idem.*

[45]Jackson *Encyclopedia af Philadelphia*, Vol. IV, p. 1179.

[46]Lippincott, *Early Philadelphia, Its People, Life and Progress*, p. 203.

[47]*Idem.*

[48]*Idem.*

[49]*Ibid.*, pp. 203–204.

[50]Keyser *et al.*, *History of Old Germantown*, p. 83.

[51]*Idem.*

[52]Watson, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 462.

[53]*Idem.*

[54]Lippincott, *A History of the Germantown Academy*, Vol. II, p. xix.

[55]In that year the Academy purchased the James Matthews House, 107 West School House Lane.

[56]Much of the information contained in this paragraph was obtained from Watson, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 463.

[57]Data in the preceding two paragraphs are based upon an article in the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin*, November 20, 1958.

[58]Philadelphia *Inquirer*, October 6, 1960.

Nocturne in White

By Elizabeth Reeves Humphreys

As each flower has its distinctive scent
So certain things have their aura of silence,
And this whitened night
Is filled with the hush of snow.
Perched high in a hospital room
It seems as though
I am on a hilltop above the trees,
And I watch them bend and sway
And straighten again with dauntless ease,
And there sweeps over me
A strange exultancy.

Half-hidden in the snow-clouds
A road light stands
Like a lonely sentry
While the earth crouches, hiding its face
From the wind's cold, searching hands.
Open space
Surrounds the sprawling hospital,
And on this bitter night
There is no living creature
In sight.
I look out on emptiness and loneliness
Which yet is neither one,
For the emptiness is filled
With the beauty of swirling snow,
And with a soft mystery
That speaks though stilled.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

Life (payable quarterly or at once)	$100.00
Sustaining or Business	10.00
Annual	6.00
Junior (under 18), Teacher, or Librarian	3.00

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

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

Progress at The Laurens

By Edwin Iwanicki

Photographs by Marjorie R. Maurer, courtesy of the Philadelphia Historical Commission

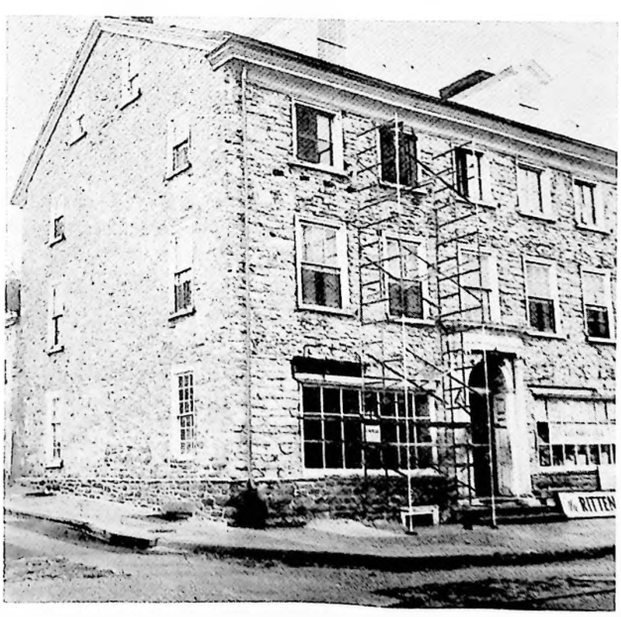
In THE September, 1964, issue of the Germantowne Crier it was reported that the Germantown Historical Society was about to begin exterior restoration work on its most recent real-estate acquisition, the property known as The Laurens, 6043 Germantown Avenue, at the corner of Walnut Lane. Since that time the work has progressed under the able guidance of Frank J. Ollinger, Chairman of the House Committee.

The stucco that covered the front wall and the north wall has been removed, revealing that the north rear wing is constructed of stone—not brick, as reported in our previous article. The north wall has been reinforced by the removal of old mortar from the joints between the stones and the complete repointing of the wall. This exterior surface will remain unplastered.

When the stucco was removed from the front, it was discovered that the floor beams at the second- and third-floor levels extend through the masonry. The exposed ends of these beams are clearly visible in the close-up photograph of the wall. This structural feature indicates that the front wall originally had two pent eaves, the beams being so arranged as to support the eaves.

A complete restoration of the facade would entail the substitution of ordinary-sized window openings for the shop windows of the first story, removal of the stylistically incongruous frontispiece from the doorway, replacement of pent eaves at the second- and third-floor levels, and installation of small-paned sash. The Historical Society, not being prepared to undertake a complete restoration of the facade at this time, and noting the poor condition of the stonework, decided, for the present, to re-cover the front wall with a layer of stucco to protect the masonry.

Scaffolding was erected at The Laurens as work progressed on the front wall during October, 1964.



Floor-beams extend through the masonry, indicating the position of original pent eaves.



Recent Accessions to the Library

FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN, III
Chairman, Library Committee

The Book of the Enterprise, by O'Connell Daniel. Gift of **Mrs. Pauline Anderson.**

Photograph of the house at 145 West School House Lane, taken in 1893. Gift of **Mrs. Sarah Benson.**

Consolidated Bibliography of County Histories in Fifty States (1961). Gift of **Mr. Francis Shunk Brown, III.**

The Mason and Dixon Line, Story for a Bicentenary 1763–1963, by Hubertis M. Cummings. Gift of the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**

History of the Head, Stevenson, and Jeremiah Brown Families; miscellaneous photographs of Germantown; list of occupants of the 5100 and 5200 blocks of Germantown Avenue and 20–74 Penn Street (date unknown). Gifts of **Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Cowan.**

History of the Detweiler Family; Detweiler family papers. Gifts of **Carol H. Deshon.**

Will of Caspar Wistar; numerous papers and pictures of the Elkinton family. Gifts of the **Elkinton Family.**

Photograph (1907) of the old Y.M.C.A. building, Germantown Avenue and Rittenhouse Street. Gift of **Mr. Dominic Esposito.**

Plays in Provence and *The Whistler Journal.* Gifts of **Mr. C. W. Fenninger.**

One Hundred Years of Brewing (1903). Gift of **Mr. Frank Jacquinto.**

Philadelphia and Notable Philadelphians. Gift of **Mr. T. W. Jones.**

Ancestors of George McNelt and Susan Armentrout. Gift of **Mrs. B. Hoff Knight.**

The Ghost of Callows Hill, by Stanley Hart Cauffman; *The Church of Saint Peter in the Great Valley, 1700–1940*, by Harold D. Eberlein; *The Life of Andrew Hamilton, 1676–1741*, by Burton Alva Konkle; *Historic Houses of Early America*, by Elsie Lathrop; *Some Account of the Tree Family and Its Connections in England and America* (1908), by Josiah Granville Leach; *Thomas Spry, Lawyer and Physician*, by John Frederick Lewis; *The Delaware Finns*, by E. A. Louhi; "Moravian Chapel Brother House, 1761"; "James and Lucretia Mott"; one-hundredth anniversary pamphlet of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church (1840–1940); two-hundred-fiftieth anniversary publication of Pennepack Baptist Church; miscellaneous magazines with reference to Germantown. Gifts of **Miss Meria Knight.**

History of Old Germantown (1907), by Naaman H. Keyser *et al.; Reminiscences of Old Germantown at Manheim* (1912); *The Saving Fund Society of Germantown and Vicinity* (1904); *A Century of the National Bank of Germantown* (1914); *Pennsylvania History*, Volume XXX, Number 1 (January, 1963). Gifts of **Samuel Lander, Esq.**

Survey and photographs of the Shippen-Blair House (The Laurens, 6043 Germantown Avenue) prepared by Magaziner Architects (1964). Gift of **Mr. Henry J. Magaziner.**

The Falls of Schuylkill (a collection of articles by Charles K. Mills, M.D.); numerous other papers of Dr. Mills. Gifts of **Mrs. Charles Peale Mills,** of Atlanta, Georgia.

The Case of Christ Church, Germantown, Pennsylvania (1872). Gift of **Mr. Set Momjian.**

"Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of Germantown"; "The Atlantic Ferry"; books and letters of Lydia Jane Clark; six post cards of Germantown during World War I; old parchment deeds; etc. Gifts of **Dr. David Newhall.**

Correspondence and memoranda of the Perot family. Gift of **Mrs. R. L. Perot.**

Blueprint of alterations to Loudoun. Gift of **Mrs. Helen Brown Smith.**

The Steins of Muscatine [Iowa] *A Family Chronicle* (1962). Gift of **Mr. Simon Gerberich Stein, III.**

Roll Out the Rocker, by Marion Rivinus. Gift of **Miss Helen Tyson,** in memory of **Mr. Joseph Stulb.**

The Minute Man in Peace and War—A History of the National Guard. Gift of **Thomas R. White, Jr., Adjutant General of Pennsylvania.**

The Wissahickon Valley Within the City of Philadelphia, by Francis Burke Brandt; *Old Churches and Meeting Houses In and Around Philadelphia* (1926), *Old Gardens In and About Philadelphia and Those Who Made Them* (1932), *Old Roads Out of Philadelphia* (1917), all by John T. Faris; *A Historical Sketch of Roxborough, Manayunk, Wissahickon*, compiled from the records of Joseph Starne Miles and William H. Cooper; *Pennsylvania Beautiful*, by Wallace Nutting; publications of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, including the Commission's report (1964); a book containing the names of pupils enrolled at the Edwin H. Fitler School, 1898–1908; "By-Laws and Regulations of the Germantown and Chestnut Hill Cemetery Company"; "Ivy Hill Cemetery" (1887); agreement between Ivy Hill Cemetery and the Willow Grove and Germantown Plank Road Company, dated February 20, 1888; other items concerning Ivy Hill Cemetery; miscellaneous periodicals. Gifts of anonymous donors.

Colonial Houses, Philadelphia, Pre-Revolutionary Period (1931) and *Colonial Ironwork in Old Philadelphia, The Craftsmanship of the Early Days of the Republic* (1930), both by Philip B. Wallace. By purchase.

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 108)

and Friday, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., with the exception of holidays, when the Museum is closed. In general, the exhibits are designed for the adult rather than the child; therefore, children under sixteen years of age are not admitted unless accompanied by an adult.

As the Museum approaches the twenty-fifth year of its existence, its major concerns are twofold: (1) the need for more space in which to exhibit items from its collections and (2) the need for more members to help in supporting its activities. With the continued interest of increasing numbers of photography enthusiasts, the Museum is confident that its future accomplishments will equal and surpass those of its first quarter-century.

PHILADELPHIA FIRSTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

The oldest American photograph extant was made in Philadelphia (1839).
The first photographs taken especially to illustrate a book were made in Philadelphia (1843).
The first photograph (on daguerreotype) for an advertising purpose was made in Philadelphia.
The first photographs taken of Niagara Falls were made by a Philadelphia daguerreotypist (1845).
The first American glass negatives were made by a Philadelphia firm (1848).
The first American production of paper negatives and positives under Talbot's patent was made by Philadelphians (1848).
The first photographic stereopticon slides in the world were made in Philadelphia (1848).
The first photographic transparencies for display purposes were made and patented by a Philadelphia firm (1850).
The first travel lectures illustrated with photographic slides were given by a Philadelphian (1850–1852).
The first American photographs of an eclipse of the sun were made in Philadelphia (1854).
The ambrotype was the joint invention of a Philadelphia and a Boston photographer (1854). The name was coined by another Philadelphian.
The first series of stereoscopic views in America was made by a Philadelphia firm and underwritten by a group of Philadelphians (1854–1855).
The oldest existing photographic society in America was founded in Philadelphia (1862).
The most successful American photographic magazine was started in Philadelphia (1864).
The first American history of photography was written by a Philadelphian (1864).
The first American production of Woodburytype prints was made in Philadelphia (1870).
The first photographers to specialize in taking animal photographs were Philadelphians (1870).
The first photographs of the Grand Canyon were made by a Philadelphia photographer (1872).
The first American movable, or motion, screen pictures based on the use of the intermittent mechanism and shutter were made by a Philadelphian (1876).
The first commercially-successful American production of gelatine dry plates was made by a Philadelphian (1879).
The photographic halftone process for printing pictures was the invention of a Philadelphian (1881).
The first photograph of lightning was made by a Philadelphian (1882).
The first lantern-slide sets used with lectures on American cities were produced by a Philadelphian (1882–1885).
The first complete study of animal locomotion through the medium of photography was made in Philadelphia (1884–1885).
The three-color halftone process for printed reproductions was first demonstrated by a Philadelphian (1885).
The reproduction of halftone screens for photomechanical reproduction was first started in Philadelphia.
The first photographic negative from a Crookes tube was obtained by a Philadelphian (1890).
The first successful series of aerial photographs from a balloon was made over Philadelphia (1893).
The first additive three-color cameras and viewers were invented by a Philadelphian (1894).
The most internationally-famous American portrait photographer of all time was a Philadelphian (1895–1943).
The first major exhibition of photography in a national art museum was held in Philadelphia (1898).
The first "Penny Pictures" were made by a Philadelphian.
The first interior views taken on an ocean liner while in motion were made by a Philadelphian.
The first three-color imbibition prints in America were developed by a Philadelphian (1912–1918).
The Finlay Color process was introduced in America by a Philadelphian (1929).
The first full-color reproductions from Finlay Color were made by a Philadelphia engraving house (1929).
The first two-color photographic print process was developed by a Philadelphian (1931).
The first museum devoted entirely to photography was opened in Philadelphia (1940).

A great majority of the original photographs, prints or negatives mentioned above are in the possession of the American Museum of Photography and represent the most valuable collection of American photographic items in existence.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 104)

and possibly procuring new members. Furthermo if every one of our present eight hundred members were to procure one new member—and six dollars a year is little enough to pay for our membership privileges—we would quickly double our numbers, and the labors of our Membership Committee chairman, Mrs. Arthur E. Weil, would be greatly reduced. After all that she has done for us in this and in other ways, Mrs. Weil deserves the help requested.

Thanks go to Dr. Gordon W. Venable, Miss Gertrude S. Butler, and Mrs. F. Edward Atkins, Jr., and to the members of their committees for their loyal work for the Society at the Morris House. Also thanked are Henry J. Magaziner, for the pains he has taken to give us entertainment of a high order at our membership meetings; Mrs. Almon N. Kidder, our historian, for her interesting report; Frank R. Donahue, Jr., our solicitor; Francis Shunk Brown, III, our Library Committee chairman; and Mrs. Alfred North and Mrs. Robert F. Irwin, hospitality chairmen, for all they have done in the year now ending.

All of the officers and the five managers whose terms expired were re-elected at the annual meeting in October. Committee chairmen continue in office.

Finally, thanks go to all of our officers, managers, and committee members for their deeply-appreciated gifts of time, thought, and energy in helping to conduct the affairs of our very worth-while Society, about to enter its sixty-fifth year. Let's make it a good one.

HAROLD D. SAYLOR, *President*

Report of the Relics Committee

THOMAS VON TROTT, *Chairman*

The Germantown Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following gifts of generous friends and members of the Society:

From **Mr. Peter Elkinton:** two bedquilts; baby's dress; pair of lady's wedding slippers (period 1860); two deeds to the Elkinton property.

From **Mr. Everett S. Elwood:** leather-covered trunk (period 1789), having papers of 1790 pasted in lid; another leather trunk filled with early costumes and sewing materials (placed in Costume Museum); carpet bag; leather shot pouch; shawl; pair of shoe buckles (colonial period); vegetable and meat chopper; tongs; wooden spoons (early); numerous other small items.

From **Mrs. Charles Gamble:** locket with two photographs—one of David Deshler Lewis, great-grandson of David Deshler. (The Deshler family occupied the now-so-called Morris House, 5442 Germantown Avenue.)

From **Miss Meria Knight:** two bedspreads—one of diamond pattern, the other picturing Memorial Hall, eagles, etc. (period 1876).

From **Mrs. William Malandra:** Quaker costumes; pewter platter and plate; photograph of Germantown Friends School graduating class of 1880; three books.

From **Mercer Lock Company:** old iron lock (very good) from Moyamensing Prison, Tenth and Reed Streets, Philadelphia. (The lock is now in place on the Engle chest, presented by Mr. Robert Nelson.)

From **Dr. Samuel Sturgis:** original mill desk (fine piece) from the Houlgate Mill on the Wissahickon Creek, the first fulling mill in America; Franklin stove (fine piece), made in Boston (period 1830); pair of wrought iron bell candlesticks; Indian stone axe; mortar and pestle; grinding stone; map showing the early mills along the Wissahickon Creek.

From **Mrs. John E. Taffner:** white linen bedspread, beautifully quilted.

From **Miss E. Whiteman:** water-color painting by John Richards depicting the old Bank Hotel, a building which still stands at the southwest corner of Germantown Avenue and Penn Street (an unusual scene, showing a horse-drawn car and people dressed in the costume of 1860); photographs of old Germantown (a very fine lot) from the collection of Mr. William Emhardt.

A large model of the Johnson House (6306 Germantown Avenue), formerly kept at Upsala, has been dismantled and moved to the annex building behind the Museum, where it will be restored by expert carpenters. **Mr. Frank Jacquinto** provided the truck and men for the moving. **Mr. Malcomb Henderson** will defray the costs of dismantling and rebuilding.

A model of the sloop of war *Germantown* has been restored and placed on view in the Museum. While it is not an exact copy of the ship, this model is, nonetheless, an interesting exhibit. **Mr. Ken Kuhn,** of the Costume Museum, did the restoration.

CHRISTOPHER WITT *(Continued from page 110)*

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

INVENTORY of the Personal Effects of Docter Christopher Witt deceasd, Late of Germantown and county of Philadelphia.[17]

	[Pence omitted] £	S
His wearing Apparil	17—	2
Cash and Credits	27—	7
Beds, Bedsteads, Curtains and Trimings	14—	0
Two Pair of Chesta-Drawers 9£ A Dresing Table 2£ and a press Cubbord 1£ 10^{S} 0^{D}	12—	10
Telliscope	1—	10
A Percle of Maps and Pictures	1—	5
An Organ	40—	0
Virginals	1—	15
A Table	1—	5
Mathematical Instraments, Library and prospect glases	50—	00
Drugs Medicines and other Utentials belonging to the Apothecarys and Docters Way	60—	00
Two Clocks	30—	00
Two Leather Bottem'd Chairs, & a Winsor chair	1—	10
Fiften Rush Bottem'd chairs	2—	5
A Table	00—	15
A Couch and 2 tables	1—	10
A Desk	5—	00
Chare and Slay	27—	00
A Table 25/ and 2 Chairs 6/	1—	11
A Clock	15—	00
Clock makers Tooles	3—	00
	314—	5

Appraised—P us Jn° Knor
Cawls [?] Winowsolt [?]

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NOTES—CHRISTOPHER WITT

[1]George H. Eckhardt, *Pennsylvania Clocks and Clockmakers* . . . (New York, 1955), p. 198.
[2]*Ibid.*
[3]F. H. Williams, "Pennsylvania Poets of the Provincial Period," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XVII (1893), p. 27.
[4]The original is in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
[5]Eckhardt, *op. cit.*, p. 198.
[6]Brooks Palmer, *The Book of American Clocks* (New York, 1950), p. 313.
[7]*Ibid.*, p. 171.
[8]See Witt's will, printed below.
[9]Charles Francis Jenkins, "Historical Background of Franklin's Tree," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. LVII (1933), p. 195; and Stephen Bloore, "Joseph Breintnall, First Secretary of the Library Company," *ibid.*, Vol. LIX (1935), p. 49.
[10]J. W. Harshberger, "Some Old Gardens of Pennsylvania," *ibid.*, Vol. XLVIII (1924), pp. 289–290.
[11]J. Granville Leach, "Colonial Mayors of Philadelphia," *ibid.*, Vol. XVIII (1894), p. 427.
[12]Eckhardt, *op. cit.*, p. 198.
[13]The will of Christopher Witt and the inventory of his personal effects, printed below, are filed at City Hall, Philadelphia (1765 Will No. 143).
[14]Witt was buried near the chancel of Saint Michael's Church in Germantown.
[15]It was usual at this period to bequeath wearing apparel to one's family or friends. Witt's conditions regarding its use and his prohibition against its sale are unusual and may indicate the use to which such bequests were frequently put.
[16]Andrew Keyser was one of the owners of lots numbered 22 and 23 on the east side of Germantown Road, between the present Tulpehocken Street and Washington Lane.
[17]Christopher Witt is known to have purchased silver from Joseph Richardson. Oddly enough there is no mention of plate in the inventory printed herewith. (See H. E. Gillingham, "Cost of Old Silver," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. LIV [1930], p. 45.)

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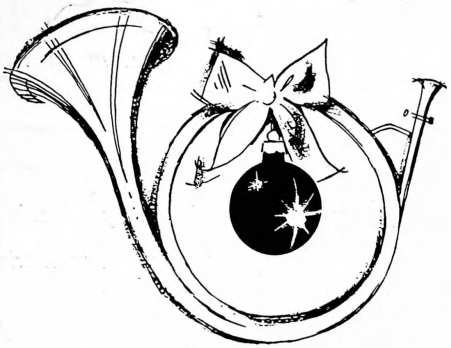
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