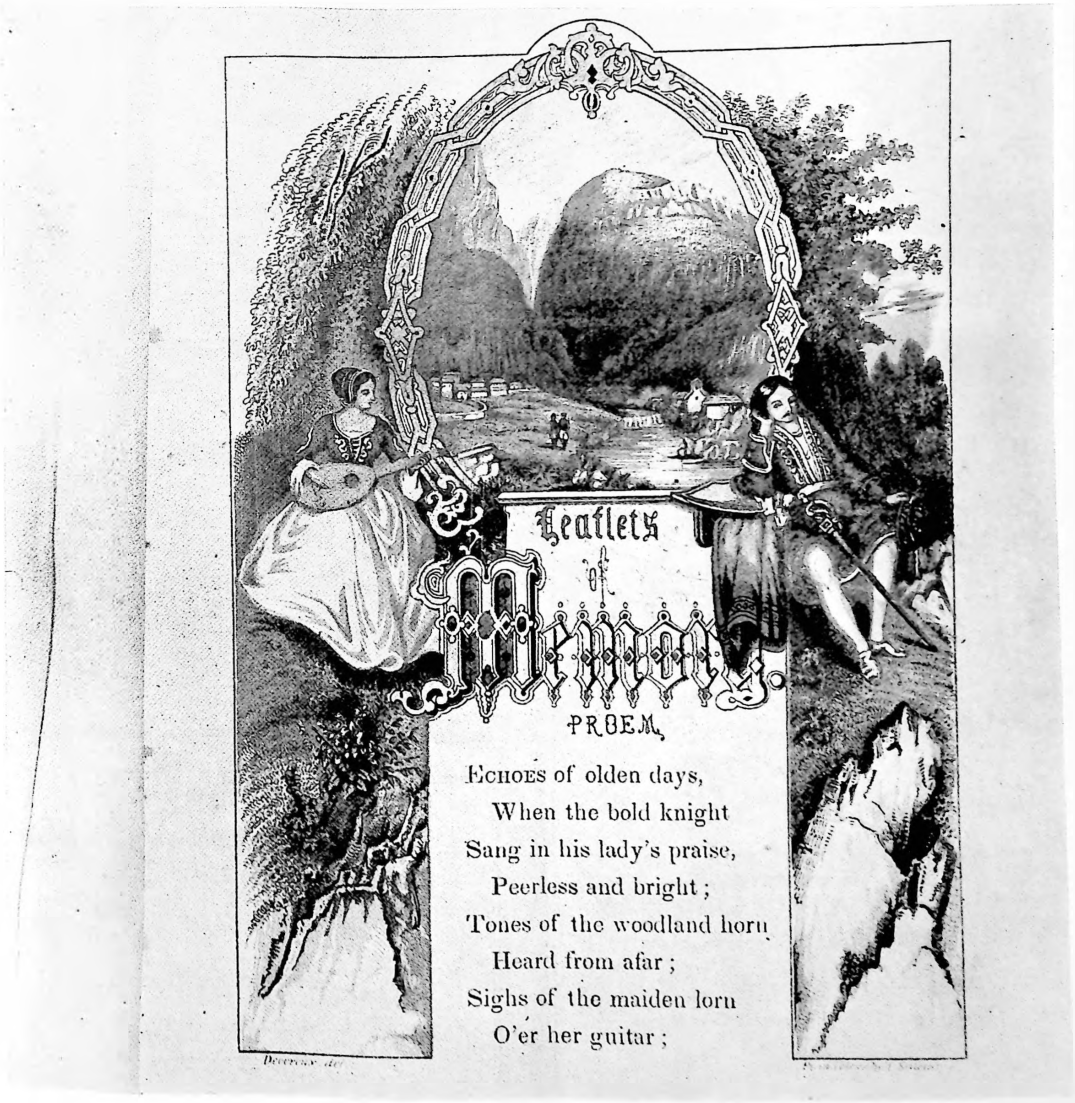
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Christnas Annual

(Story on Page 105)

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4

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AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Jan. 20, 1966 —Mr. John B. Cabot, Chief Architect of the National Park Service, "Historic Preservation and the Role of the Park Service."

Feb. 17, 1966 —Mr. Ed Adams, "Evolution of the Roxborough-Manayunk Section."

Mar. 17, 1966—Mr. Derek Naabe, "Philadelphia at the Turn of the Century," based on his unique collection of very early postcards showing Philadelphia at the turn of the century.

All of these meetings will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Queen Lane and Germantown Avenue.

April 21, 1966—Visit to a Museum—Buten Museum of Wedgewood, Merion, Pa. Mr. Harry Buten, patron, will speak on the history and evolution of Wedgewood and later, visitors may see the 7,500 pieces of rare Wedgewood displayed in the Museum.

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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Volume 17 | DECEMBER, 1965 | Number 4

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Report of the President

HAROLD D. SAYLOR

THE year 1965 has been another busy one for the Society. While no more certified old houses have been acquired much work has been done in placing those already owned in first class condition. The cost of this work and the taxes on the rented properties together with premiums paid on necessary insurance have taken a good bit of our income. However, with Mr. Frank J. Ollinger as Chairman of the House Committee, we have been able to do the job.

At the same time we built during the summer a 100 per cent addition to the Annex at the rear of the Baynton House at 5208 Germantown Avenue. This one-story cement block building, now 100 feet in length, contains many relics acquired in recent years and at last properly exhibited. Gone are the ramshackle garages that were inherited by the Society when it acquired the property where our library is housed and our Board of Managers meetings are held.

We are still in need of space for our ever-growing collection of Germantown relics consisting of furniture, furnishings, china, etc. and we are hopeful that some day soon we shall own another house which can be made into an additional museum.

We are all saddened by the death this last Fall of two men who for years have been closely identified with the Society's activities. George Clarence Johnson was for many years a Vice-President and lately an Honorary Vice-President. His wise counsel and the benefit of his considerable experience as an architect well-versed in the preservation and restoration of ancient Germantown were willingly given to the Society whenever it needed assurance of proper action with reference to its own holdings. Thomas von Trott, a member of the Board of Managers and Chairman of the Relics Committee, was indefatigable in his work for and at the museum. There the exhibits were considerably increased in number and quality during his time and were admirably labelled and displayed by him. Despite ill health for some years he loyally and effectively conducted his part of the Society's activities to the great benefit of the community.

We shall greatly miss these two outstanding members.

During the leave of absence of Miss Jane Carl made necessary by her illness the position of Editor of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER was effectively filled by Edwin Iwanicki who continues in his position as Chairman of the Publications Committee. We are happy to welcome Miss Carl back to her work in editing our quarterly magazine and thank Mr. Iwanicki for his faithful service during her absence.

The meetings of the Board of Managers held regularly throughout the year now ending were always well attended and considerable work was accomplished due to the generous participation by the officers and the fifteen men and women who serve as managers.

The meetings of the general membership were held as scheduled in the Assembly Building of the Woman's Club and on each occasion worthwhile and interesting subjects were presented to substantial and attentive audiences. Our thanks are due to the guest speakers and to Mr. Henry J. Magaziner, Chairman of the Committee on Meetings. Beginning this Autumn the lectures will be held in the Parish House of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

From time to time classes of school children have visited our museum building and the annex and have thereby enlarged their knowledge of history and of our community. Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr. and the late Mr. von Trott ably assisted those in charge of the groups in making these visits fruitful. It is important that this part of our program of service to Germantown be increased and that additional members make themselves available as guides. I ask for volunteers to perform this pleasant task.

Our membership slowly but surely increases as the untiring efforts of Mrs. Arthur E. Weil continue. As always we must depend on our members to assist her by recommending those who could and should join the Society and thereby assist it in the execution of its purposes to the benefit of all concerned in Germantown.

Space does not permit further reference to individual accomplishments. As heretofore our officers, managers and committee members have ably and conscientiously performed their duties. To all of them, whether or not they are here named, goes the appreciation of all the members of the Society.

We all look forward with confidence to another successful year under much the same leadership as in recent years. Mr. John M. Welthall, recently elected to the board to the vacancy created by the death of Mr. von Trott, will serve in succession as Chairman of the Relics Committee.

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

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The Christmas Annual or A Pure Gift for the Holy Days

By Derek Naabe

Photographs of the Derek Naabe Collection by G. A. Daniels

IT WAS in my constant and unending pursuit of First Editions of early American authors that I first became aware that some of the Christmas Annuals published in Philadelphia were highly collectable, the reason being that some of the issues contained stories and articles by a few of our literary greats, one in particular being Edgar Allan Poe. I was to further learn that they were published from 1826 to approximately 1855, and most all of them first saw the light of day in Philadelphia.

Needless to say my literary appetite was properly whetted and there was nothing left to do but to begin an immediate search for them. But where? The most logical place would be, of course, a museum or some historical society—perhaps a collector. This I didn't want to do for the very selfish reason that I wanted to own these little books, and not just stare or secretly yearn for them should I be confronted with a collection beyond my power to obtain or possess. I immediately contacted other collectors, but could find no one who was specializing, or had any particular knowledge of this field of collecting. However, I did learn that a book had been published some years previous on the subject of the Annuals, but was now out of print and unobtainable. I began an extensive research on early Philadelphia publishing, but could find nothing that would further enlighten me on the subject—a slight reference now and then, but that was all.

My common sense told me that if I was going to search for these books I should have some idea of what they looked like, they must have names, titles, or some other distinguishing features. After many hours, days and weeks of research I was desperate for the slightest clue that would enable me to identify a Christmas Annual from any other book pertaining to Christmas published during that period. Then suddenly my efforts were very happily rewarded, the information I had been seeking was there before me, not as much as I liked, but I was making progress.

According to Mr. Joseph Jackson, Philadelphia writer and historian, the first Christmas Annual brought out in America was the Atlantic Souvenir, the publishing date being 1826, and like Almanacs, they were always issued in advance of the year printed on their titles. The "Souvenir" was a small book, and it contained many steel engravings to accompany poems and stories written to order. The cover was usually of glazed boards, gilt edges, and the title page was very elaborately engraved, Carey, Lea & Carey were the publishers, a firm which in those days stood at the head of the publishing fraternity of this country.

There were many Annuals to follow the "Souvenir," but the scarcity today is almost beyond belief when you consider the many thousands published during that period. It is only through the persistent and relentless effort expended that I have been fortunate to discover just three, and that, believe it or not, took ten years of constant searching. I was to find the first Annual beneath a pile of old books and papers, sprinkled well with dust, in a remote corner of an old "second hand shop" that specialized in catering to low budgeted collectors, such as myself, I am deeply appreciative of the consideration and aid received from the propietors of some of the old book stalls and shops, such as, "Mike," "Tony" and "Meyer," for their understanding and great assistance in helping me to obtain the two remaining Annuals in my collection.



The embossed leather cover of "Leaflets of Memory." The raised portions are heavily gold leafed.



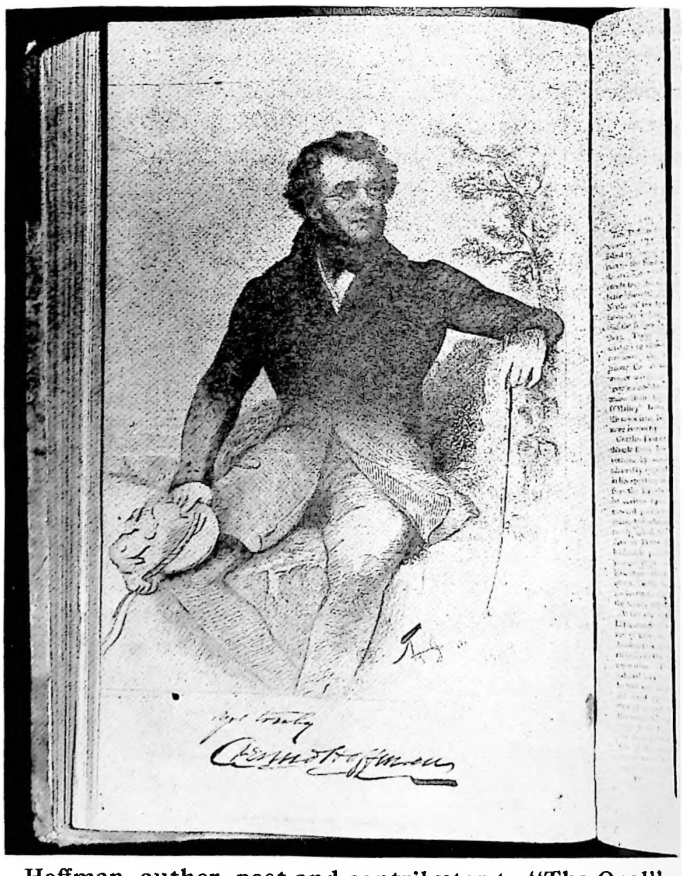
The presentation page of "Leaflets of Memory," a beautiful lithograph in color.

Referring again to Mr. Joseph Jackson, he tells us that the first Christmas Annual appeared in England, no date given, and that other countries published them, but not to the extent that England did. He remarks that Charles Lamb was asked to write a few lines on the death of a child for a Christmas Annual called the "Gem," this was in London in 1828. Lamb wrote to a friend that he hated to appear in an Annual, and described them as "combinations of show and emptiness." Despite Lamb's aversion to them they seemed to flourish, for in the year he wrote there were at least fifteen "Annuals" of different sizes and shapes that appeared in the book shops, and as Mr. Jackson remarks, "all of them nearly equal in merit and fatuousness."

For more than twenty five years, the "Annual" appeared at each Christmas season, but it was in the 1850's that more elaborately illustrated gift books appeared and gradually replaced the familiar parlor book "decoration" people in the best taste felt they needed for the prestige and the atmosphere it seemed to lend, and "which gave the guest or visitor something to peruse and interest him while he waited to be announced." How much of the contents the guest could actually peruse before being forced to close its covers will I'm afraid always remain a mystery. Personally I found most of the subject matter not to my taste, but perhaps the "guest" to which I refer was made of sterner stuff and raised on a more serious literary diet than I was, for it was quite evident after reading some of the material submitted, that our ancestors had a most insatiable desire for the more serious, and less humourous type of literary fare. One story titled, "The Bereaved Mother Contemplates Death Over The Cradle," and another thought provoking title, "The Dream of the Young Consumptive" by Sara Josepha Hale, made me come to the realization that these little books were certainly not intended for light reading on a summer's evening—to say nothing of a winter's evening. If you recall, Sara Josepha Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady Book, was the author of "Mary Had A Little Lamb" the childhood classic, which proves that Sara did have a lighter side, for which I am very grateful.

A writer of humor was definitely suspect during this earlier period in our literary history. Mark Twain once wrote to a friend asking her to help convince Olivia, his wife to be, of his true nature; "—poor girl, anybody who could convince her that I was not a humorist would secure her eternal gratitude! She thinks a humorist is something perfectly awful."

A reason that a large number of people were of this opinion is easily supplied by William Dean Howells: "Except the political humorists, like Mr. Lowell—if there are any like him—the American humorists formerly chose the wrong in public matters: they were on the side of slavery, of drunkenness, and of irreligion; their spirit was thoroughly vulgar and base, and there was scarcely any American humorist



Hoffman, author, poet and contributor to "The Opal" —from Graham's Magazine.

—not of the distinctly literary sort—with whom one could smile and keep one's self respect."

There was every indication that the Annual was to be taken as serious reading, and was aimed at im-

proving society in not only religious training and beliefs, but in literary tastes as well. In order to give a clearer picture of the true intent of the Annual, allow me to quote a few excerpts from "The Opal" an Annual edited and published by the well known poet and writer, Nathaniel P. Willis: "In addressing the Annual to the taste of the religious and moral classes of society, the publisher of the Opal states he has two views to which his success will be referable. I thought it singular, in reflecting upon the manifest aim of elegant literature, that so little of it should be expressly adapted to a class so much the largest and most respectable. This serious and thinking portion of this populous country, it is a matter of patriotic congratulation to be able to say, is by the most numerous as well as the most refined; and so high the moral tone in society generally, that those who are not numbered among religious people, still desire, for their own reading, and that of their friends and families, books which, to say the least, can never offend the taste of the most scrupulous. It is in this class that the household affections are the warmest



Mezzotint of Nathaniel P. Willis, publisher of "The Opal."

and that the fitting tokens of remembrance and friendship are most looked for at this season of the year.

"Nothing gay, if innocent, is out of place in an Annual intended to be used as a tribute of affection by the good. Its contents will be opal-hued—reflecting the bright lights and colors of the pathway of life."

Despite the over abundance of reading material that would not be acceptable as standard today, there did appear, in some issues, "little gems," that eventually became classics. One in particular, of course, Edgar Allan Poe's first literary effort, "Manuscript Found In A Bottle," which appeared in "The Gift" of 1836. Miss Eliza Leslie edited this Annual for nearly five years, and is credited as one of the editors to encourage Poe, publishing several stories by him in subsequent editions. The story, "William Wilson" appeared in the issue of 1840, and in 1843, "Pit And Pendulum" another story by Poe was given its first publication.

It might be interesting to note that the "Manuscript Found In A Bottle" was Poe's first decided success. It had first been submitted to a newspaper contest conducted by the Baltimore Saturday Visitor and was published by them in 1833, it is the only issue known to exist, and now reposes in the Baltimore Historical Society. Poe won the contest hands down and was presented with the large sum of fifty dollars for his first literary masterpiece.

There were many more Annuals to follow the first and original "Souvenir," and while space does not permit listing all of the Annuals, I think it would be interesting to list a few if only to give a picture of their unusual and colorful titles.

The following is a partial list of the Annuals and their publication dates:

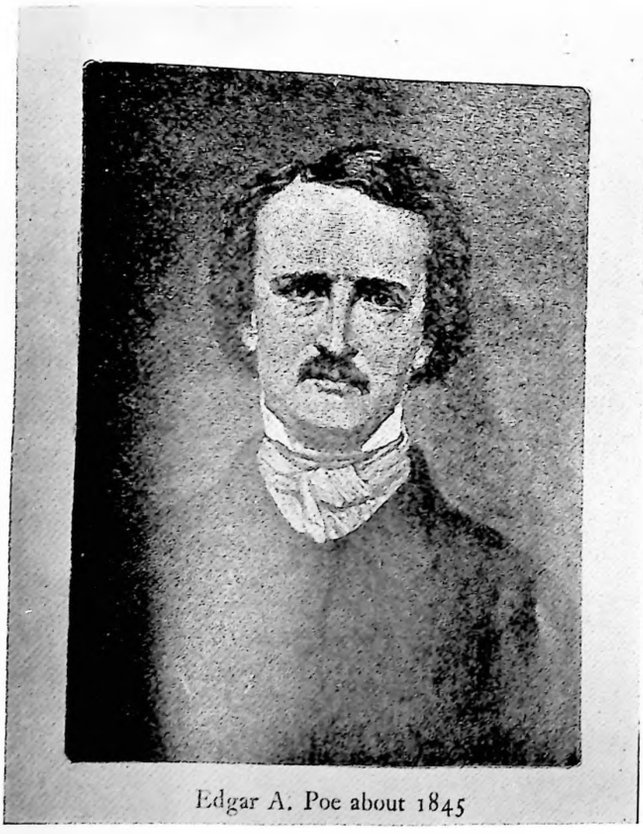
The Atlantic Souvenir, 1826.
The Pearl, 1832.
The Token, 1832.
Religious Souvenir, 1832.
Parlor Scrap Book, 1837.
Literary Amaranth, 1840.
Amaranth, 1840.
Friendship's Offering, 1841.
Leaflets of Memory, 1847.
Offering To Beauty, 1849.
Dewdrop, 1852.
Wheatsheaf, 1853.
Christians Daily Delight, 1854.
Hyacinth, 1855.

There were many more published, the complete list of titles and publication dates, according to Mr. Joseph Jackson, would be almost impossible to obtain, as there is no existing record as to the exact number published. It is pure conjecture, but it is thought that a conservative figure would be around fifty.

As stated before, my primary interest in obtaining any existing Annuals was to possess not only works of Poe, but other American writers and artists as well, for the years the Carey, Lea & Hart published "The Gift," it distanced all other publications of its kind. The contents for 1845 included poems, sketches

and stories by Henry W. Longfellow, James Fenimore Cooper, N. P. Willis, Edgar Allen Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Will H. Furness, Mrs. Ellet, Mrs. Sigourney and Charles Fenno Hoffman. The plates which were by C. R. Leslie, Thomas Sully, Malbone, Huntingdon and others, were engraved by John Cheney, J. I. Pease, John Sartain, R. W. Dodson, and the best artists of the day. The first mezzotint in America was executed by John Sartain, and appeared as the frontispiece of "The Pearl" for 1832, it was titled "My Brother" from a painting by Thomas Sully. The frontispiece of "The Gift" of 1836 is a painting of the well known English actress Fanny Kemble, and was painted by the aforementioned Thomas Sully, the engraving being executed by J. Cheney.

I possess only three of the Annuals, but of the three, two are mostly prized. "Manuscript Found In A Bottle" has already been discussed, while the second "Leaflets of Memory" is not noted for its contributions by literary greats, it does contain three beautiful lithographs in color serving as a frontispiece and a listing for illustrations. The lithographs were done by T. Sinclair, an early Philadelphia lithographer, and the twelve full page engravings throughout the book establish the fact, beyond a reasonable doubt, that John Sartain was the greatest of American engravers, and should be given proper recognition, especially by Philadelphians. "Leaflets of Memory" was edited by Dr. Reynell Coates, a noted Philadelphia doctor turned editor—a story in itself, as Dr. Coates was an editor of other Philadelphia publications in the early days of our literary history.



Edgar A. Poe about 1845

The most exciting Annual I have left to the very last; not only the most exciting, at least to me, but one of the rarest. It is called "The Opal," and was published in New York by J. C. Riker. The printing was done in Philadelphia, however, and it bears the date of 1844. It was edited by Nathaniel Parker Willis, early American writer and poet, and I might add, a friend and benefactor of Poe on more than one occasion. "The Opal" not only contains the printing of Charles Fenno Hoffman's "Scenes on the Mississippi," but the first printing of Edgar Allan Poe's "Morning on the Wissahiccon" (Poe's spelling).

I make no pretensions of being an authority on Poe, although I have made a comprehensive study of his work, but this is one story that had never come to my attention. This mystifies me somewhat, for I am sure that this is not newly discovered, but a story that historians and bibliographers have known about for years. Yet, Mr. Hervey Allen in his authorative work on Poe, "Israfel," makes no mention of "Morning on the Wissahiccon," nor does Mr. Merle Johnson in his "Highpoints of American Literature" have a listing of this story on our beloved Wissahickon.

To me it has been a very happy discovery, and I can think of no one whom I would rather have describe and extol our lovely Wissahickon than Edgar Allan Poe. Permit me to give some excerpts from "Morning on the Wissahiccon" and allow Mr. Poe to tell in his own words how he first discovered the "Wissahiccoon"—his walks along its banks, his discovery of its wondrous beauty as only a master of the written word could describe it.

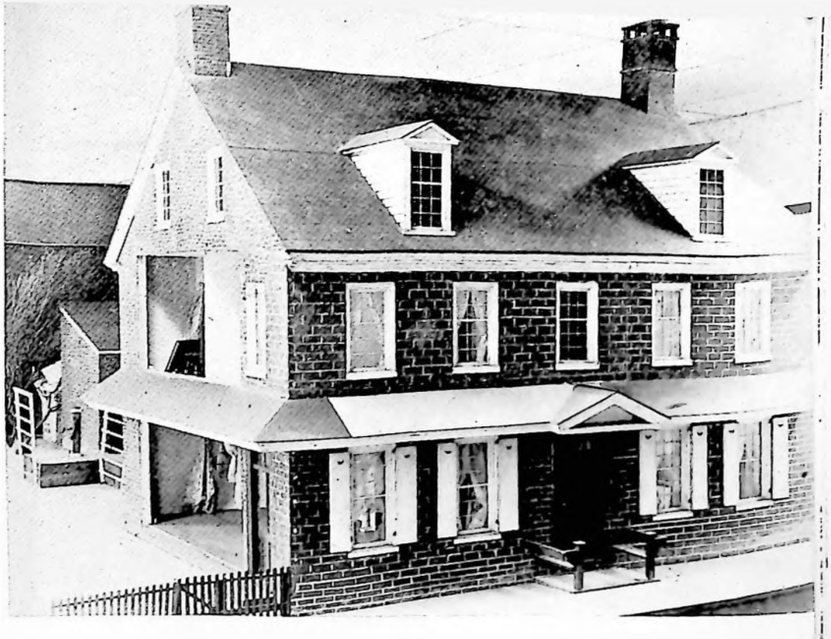
He begins by stating; "The Wissahiccon is of so remarkable a loveliness that, were it flowing in England, it would be the theme of every bard, and common topic of every tongue. Yet it is only within a very few years that any one has more than heard of the Wissahiccon, while the broader and more navigable water into which it flows, has long been celebrated as one of the finest specimens of American scenery. The Schuylkill, whose beauties have been much exaggerated, and whose banks, at least in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, are marshy like those of the Delaware, is not at all comparable, as an object of picturesque interest, with the more humble and less notorious rivulet of which we speak.

"The Wissahiccon, however, should be visited, not like 'fair Melrose,' by moonlight, or even in cloudy weather, but amid the brightest glare of a noonday sun; for the narrowness of the gorge through which it flows, the height of the hills on either hand, and the density of the foliage, conspire to produce a gloominess, if not an absolute dreariness of effect, which, unless relieved by a bright general light, detracts from the mere beauty of the scene. It was not until Fanny Kemble, in her droll book about the United States, pointed out to Philadelphians the rare loveliness of the stream which lay at their own doors, that this loveliness was more than suspected by a few adventurous pedestrians of the vicinity.

(Continued on page 122)

Johnson House Replica at New Address

By Jane Carl

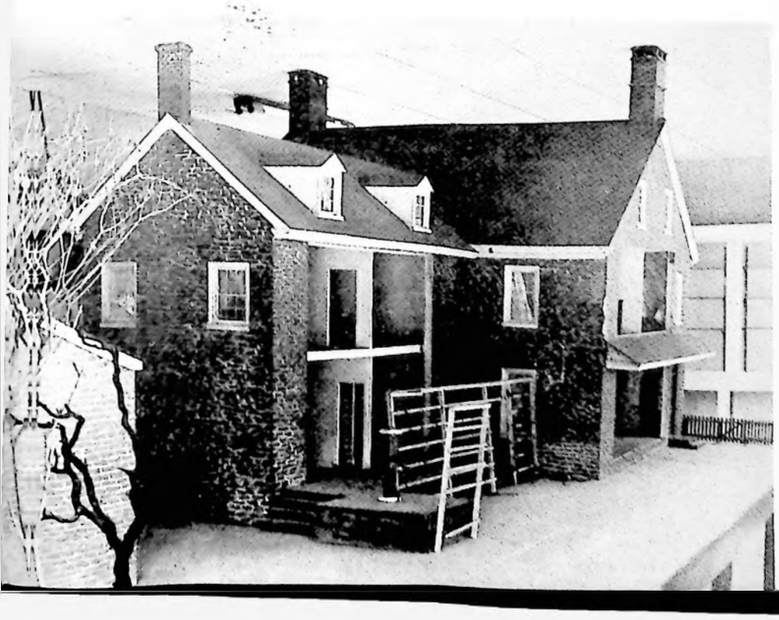


HISTORIC Johnson House, a community landmark since Revolutionary days, may now be found in miniature at its new address—Museum Annex, 5208 Germantown Avenue.

Even though this model is a miniature—scale of 1/7 inch to the foot—area wise it is the largest single exhibit in the Annex. And to some of the young-at-heart, it is also the most interesting. The five foot high model's chimney-tops barely clear the ceiling and the platform on which it sets requires an area 10 by 22 feet to accommodate the house and barn plus the landscaped grounds.

This miniature is a faithful reproduction of the house that stood in the thick of the fighting during the battle of Germantown. Its floor plan follows that of the original and even small details—spindles of the staircase banisters in the center halls, the Dutch doors, the old pump, the fireplace mantles, lattice for an arbor—may be found in the small house. The asbestos exterior was skillfully painted to resemble stone and a variety of woods were used to make window sashes, trim and other woodwork.

The furnishings of the model are complete to the smallest utensil and are excellent reproductions of the pieces used in the eighteenth century. The furniture was handmade by Litchfield and Company—manufacturers of toys and miniature furniture—of Hingham, Mass. The Litchfield firm is an early manufacturer of furniture in Colonial America. Their pieces are greatly sought after and collectors are proud to be owners of marked "Litchfield" pieces.



This more than sixty-five-year-old doll house is probably one of the most travelled in town. It was originally made in Boston for Mrs. E. W. Clark of Chestnut Hill who presented it to "The Reminiscenses of Old Germantown"—a fair held in 1900 at Manheim for the benefit of the Germantown Hospital. It is said that the total cost of the house and furnishings was $350.00. Even then—brand new and without its present patina of age—the Johnson House replica was so appealing that the Manheim festival netted $1252.50 in disposing of it. Needless to say, this wonderful toy is worth many times that amount today.

Otto Eisenlohr, who was lucky enough to become the owner, found he was unable to make use of the big house, so he donated it to the Site and Relic Society who exhibited the model at the Concord Schoolhouse from 1900 to 1907. In the next fifty seven years, three other locations have been used to display this valuable toy. For twenty years the model stood in Vernon, until the large space it required was needed for other purposes. It was dismantled in 1927 and re-erected in Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park. When this last remaining building of the Centennial Exposition was put to other uses in 1955, the model was moved to Upsala and was exhibited in one of the upstairs bedrooms. As might have been expected, funds became available for Upsala to restore the bedroom and a new address had to be found. In 1964, the replica was again dismantled and moved to the Annex where we are sure it will remain as a permanent exhibit.

The last moving of the Johnson House replica was directed by Mr. Thomas von Trott and as we go to press, the entire job of restoration is not yet completed. The side elevations of the house have been removed and will be replaced by glass so that visitors may more easily enjoy seeing the furnished interiors. But, just like in real life—when you own a house—even if it *is* a replica—there's always work to be done.

The "Time" of Our Lives in Old Germantown

A Catalogue of Our Museum Clocks

By Ralph Himmelright

Photographs by G. A. Daniels

About the Author

Ralph E. Himmelright is a member of the Franklin Institute and National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. He recently restored the famous Strasburg astronomical clock and the Empress Josephine Automation clock at the Franklin Institute. Mr. Himmelright also has a fine collection of 18th and 19th Century French Ormolu clocks.

FEW members of the Germantown Historical Society realize the fine collection of clocks we have in our Museum. From small kitchen clocks to the stately Grandfathers, we have them all. These clocks, apart from their historical significance, beauty and craftsmanship, are all in proof condition and running. Very, very few museums can claim this. They are under constant surveillance, wound, and checked regularly. We have a few that are now being restored in our museum work rooms.

I shall attempt to give you a short description of each of these clocks, so you will know how important, unusual and interesting our collection is.

A magnificent tall case clock can be found standing in the South room on the first floor of the Museum still running and striking away the years—a tribute to Augustine Neisser, Germantown clockmaker and craftsman, born in Sehlen, Moravia 1717. In 1736 he imigrated to Georgia; a few years later he came to Philadelphia and eventually settled in Germantown. Neisser married Catherine Reisinger in 1770 and they had three sons. He died in 1780. This man was an outstanding clock maker. In 1746 he was engaged to build the great clock for the Moravian Congregation in Bethlehem, Pa. This was completed in 1747 and he was paid in full with eight pounds.

"An advertisement in the local newspaper in 1777, offered a reward of $8 for a repeating 30 hr. clock with alarm, removed by some of the British Troops on September 25, 1777, with the makers name 'Augustine Neisser' engraved on the face 11" square, taken



Tall case clock by August Neisser

without pendulum and weights."—The clock was returned.

From New England—Maker unknown.

This beautiful and graceful tall case clock is a very recent addition to our Museum. It stands in the North room on the second floor. The case is Heppelwhite style in mahogany with fine and unusual box wood inlays. The broken arch hood is surmounted with three brass finials, the center one being an eagle with outspread wings.

The movement, a very unusual one, is of very heavy brass and made in the shape of an hourglass as if the maker wanted to conserve his brass. The wheels and pinions are all hand made with forged iron fittings.

Unfortunately there is no maker's name on this clock. The writer believes it to be of New England origin. Shortage of time prevented more research on this clock for our publication.

Number 2156—Presented by Dr. J. Monroe Thorington of Germantown

Clock by C. and L. C. Ives

Chauncey and Lawson C. Ives built a factory in Bristol, Conn. for making 8 day brass clocks in 1830. Business was carried on successfully for a few years but in 1836 was closed.

This clock is important as it was the forerunner of mass produced brass clock movements in America. The movement is made of brass strips riveted together. The wheels were stamped out and it has roller pinions. The roller pinion was an invention of Ives which greatly reduced friction and wear.

Label—Patent Brass—8 day
Made and sold by C. and L. C. Ives
Brass and Thirty Hour Wood Clocks

Another interesting thing about this clock is the small note tacked on the inside of the clock case—

"After 83 years constant service this clock in May 1913 was thoroughly repaired by Charles Heebrie Aged 75 an ancient clock maker of Alden, Del. Co. who asserts that it will run 75 years more."

After examination of this clock movement by the writer I can assure you our ancient clockmaker underestimated his ability by at least a hundred years. It is in perfect condition.

Presented by Mrs. E. Boggs Prettyman.

Eli Terry—Famous name in Conn. clock history 1792–1870.

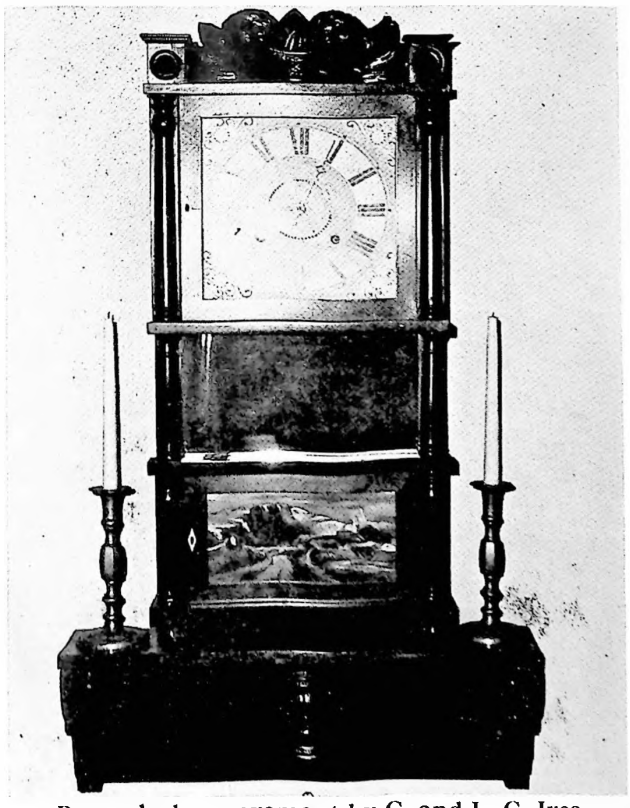
We are also proud owners of one of the fine Terry pillar and scroll clocks. This rare and beautiful clock is in its original condition with the exception of its wooden movement which has been replaced by a fine 8 day brass works (Seth Thomas).

However, we have our original wood movement in the museum so displayed that you can see all of the wooden wheels and plates of this ingenious craftsman.

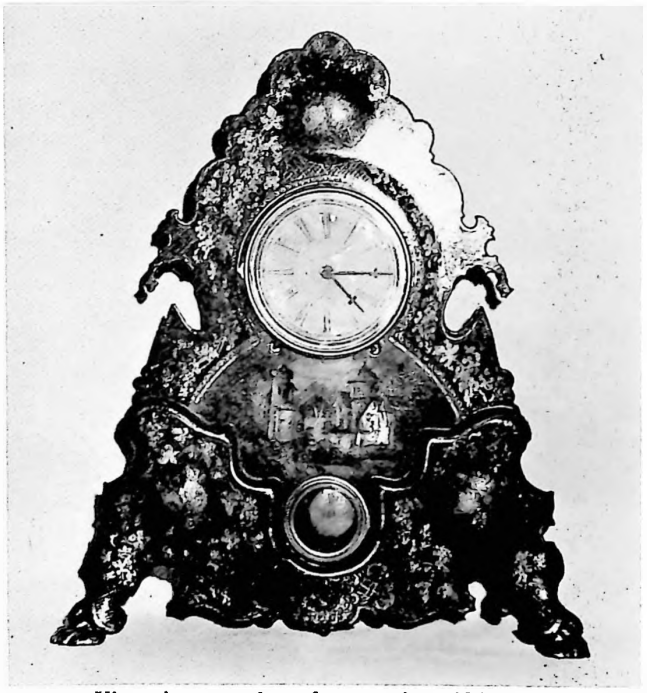
This clock can be found on the second floor, South room (Flag Room). This clock was presented to us by Dr. J. Monroe Thorington, a very recent addition #2155.

The wooden movement can be found in the same location and is also a recent addition.

Presented by Mr. R. E. Himmelright.



Brass clock—movement by C. and L. C. Ives



Victorian cast iron front—circa 1850-1870

Cast Iron Clock

Very popular clock from 1850–1870.

All of these cast iron clocks were made in Connecticut although the maker's name does not appear on any of them. This writer has only two references as to the description of these clocks.

1. They were made for distribution and sale by the American Clock Company, a nation-wide catalogue house.

2. Bristol Brass and Clock Co. Depot 3, Cortland Street, New York.

The front of this clock is cast iron painted black and is decorated with painted designs in gold and colors and inlaid with mother of pearl. Usually these clocks were small but ours in the museum is rather large and very lavishly decorated. This writer believes these iron fronts were imported from Europe as the decorations certainly have an old world feeling.

It is a gay and charming addition to our Victorian room.

Presented by Stella and Thos. von Trott
Restored by R. E. Himmelright

Columbus Clock

This very interesting type of wooden clock can be found hanging in the exhibit room, first floor. It was made to sell as a souvenir at the Columbian Exposition, 1893. It was manufactured by Bostwock and Burgess Co. in Norwalk, Ohio in the years 1892–1898. About twenty thousand of them were made. In spite of the fact that such a great volume of clocks were manufactured, they have become collectors' items today.

Seth Thomas—Circa 1856

We have four Seth Thomas clocks in our collection, two small wooden cased alarm clocks and two large ogee weight driven clocks.

The two small alarm clocks can be found on the second floor—one in the North room and the other in the Doll room. The cases are of rosewood and mahogany and both date around 1856.

The two larger Seth Thomas clocks, both circa 1856, are now being restored in the work shop of the museum. These clocks both have very nice glasses, one a frosted floral design and the other a colorful transfer of the Swiss Alps with a chalet at the base.

The small alarm clock with mirror in front door was presented by Mr. E. Hohmiller Nice.



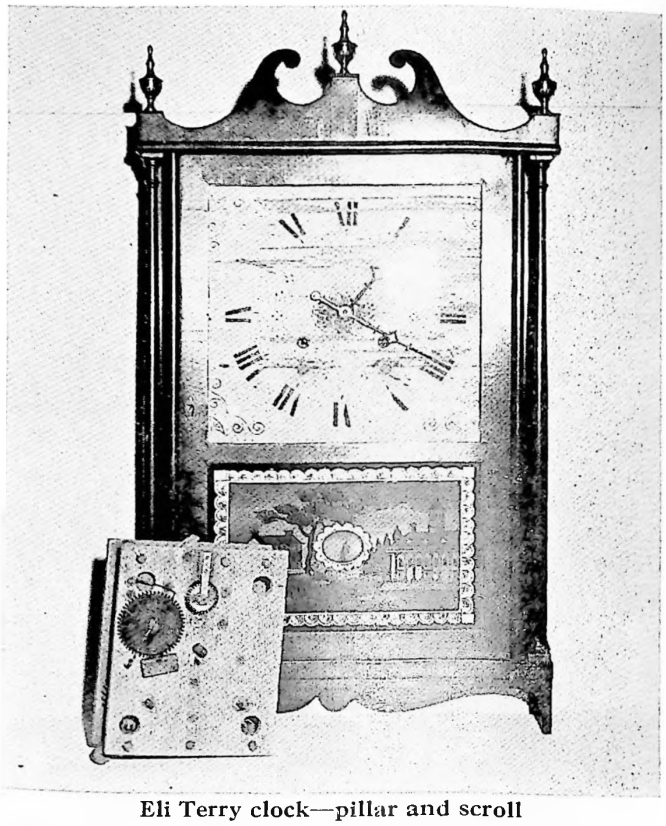
Shelf clocks

Werlliam Whiteman (Hamburg)

This beautiful mahogany tall case clock stands in the North room on the first floor, is of German origin and would date about the middle of the 18th century.

An interesting feature of this clock is its winding mechanism, one weight on a heavy iron chain drives both striking and running trains of the clock. To wind you simply open the front door and pull on the chain until weight reaches the top of clock, no key required.

This clock given in memory of Henry L. Butler long resident of Germantown by his son and daughter Louis C. Butler and Hariett B. Gummey.



Eli Terry clock—pillar and scroll

George Marsh and Co.—Framingham, Conn., 1828–31

This tall 8 day shelf clock is one of the finest we have in the museum, not only because of the beautiful carvings but of its wooden movement with its Ivory bearings (quite rare). This clock is also in process of restoration.

Presented by Louis C. Butler and Harriett B. Gummy in memory of their father, Henry L. Butler.



David Rittenhouse compass

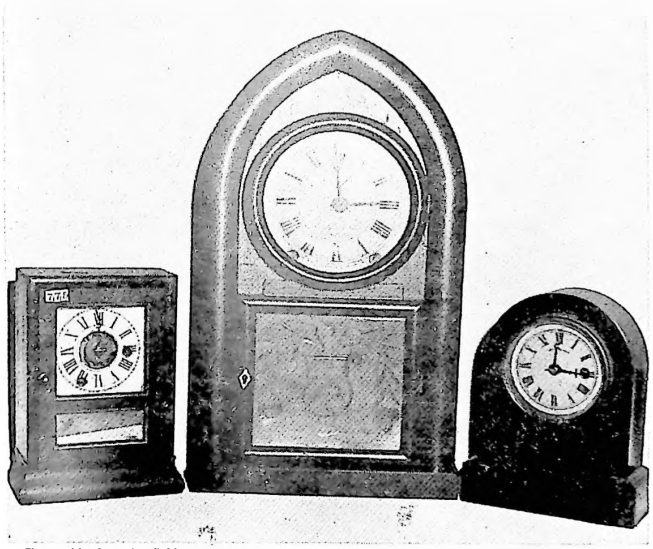
David Rittenhouse—1732–1796, Germantown

We do *not* have a clock made by David Rittenhouse but we do have a fine compass made and signed by him. The workmanship shows the skill of a clockmaker in all its fine points.

We do hope that in the future a Rittenhouse clock will be added to our collection by a benefactor who could be sure that the clock would be outstanding in our museum.

Also, clocks by the Gorgas and Hagey families should be represented in the collection of Germantown craftsmen.

All of these fine clocks have at one time played an important part in the past lives of Germantown families. Now as they are being restored and placed in the museum they once again become important to Germantown future.



Small Seth Thomas wooden case alarm clocks. The large one in the center (circa 1856) has a beautiful frosted front door.

Brewster and Ingraham—1844

This lovely Gothic shaped clock with a frosted glass front door may be seen in the Quilting room on the third floor.

Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Daggett of Germantown.

Ingraham and Co.—1853

Another of the famous Ingraham Clock family, this shelf clock has gilded half columns with a figure 8 door and turned round button side pieces. This also can be found in the Quilting room on the third floor.

Jacob Heilig—1833—Germantown

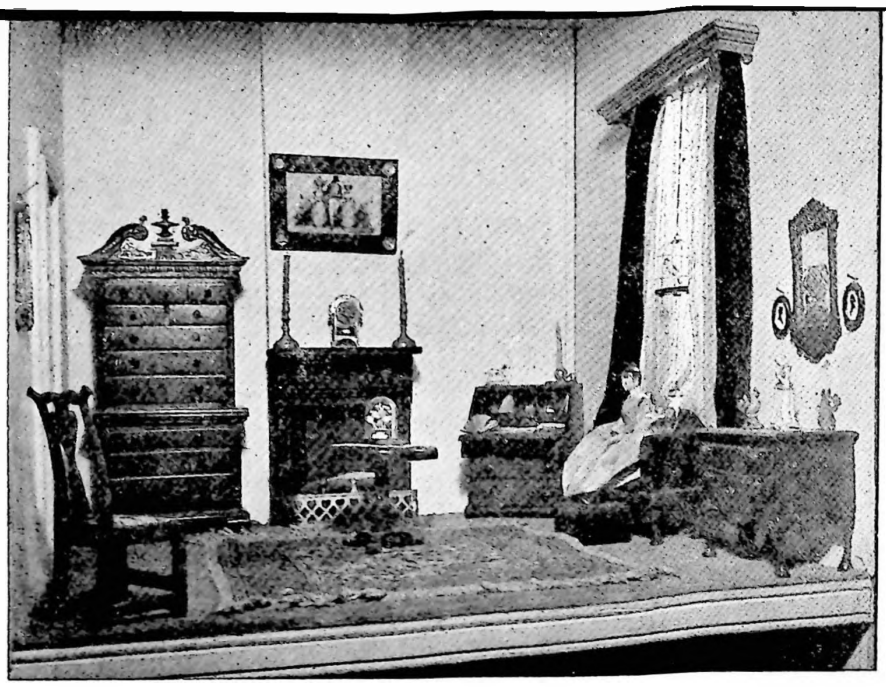
A true Germantown clock. This clock was made by Jacob Heilig who was the great grandson of Hendrick Heilig, the founder of the famous Germantown clock making family. Lack of space forbids me to further elaborate on each member of this clockmaking family.

Unfortunately we only have the movement dial, weight and pully of this clock. It is a regulator clock, meaning a wall clock, glass front and sides about 3 feet to 4 feet tall, the type you often see in jewelry stores. The reason for the description of this clock case is that you may have one in your attic or basement that you may want to get rid of. It is a "must" that this clock be restored and we cannot even start without a case.



Tall case clock

Author's Note: Thanks to Mr. Thomas von Trott without whose valuable assistance this article would not have been written.



Among the tiny copies of family heirlooms to be found in the doll house styled after an 1820 Philadelphia town house is the Chippendale chest-on-chest. These miniatures were hand carved by the present owner's father, a surgeon who found relaxation in duplicating the beautiful pieces while his wife stitched needlepoint to enhance and complete them.

Photographs courtesy of The Baltimore Sun

DESHLER CHEST-ON-CHEST TRAVELS TO BALTIMORE

By JANE CARL

A copy of the Baltimore Sunday *Sun's* magazine found its way to my home in Philadelphia. An article about a home and its furnishings in Guilford and a doll-house built in the style of a Philadelphia town house of 1820 literally leaped from the pages. As the story unfolded, more names and more things were disclosed—familiar words that would make anyone interested in Philadelphia and Germantown history sit up and take notice.

For instance, the doll house was made by *Jacob Giles* of *Philadelphia* for his twin grand-daughters, Elizabeth Clifford and Sarah *Wistar Morris*. There



were many references to the fine furnishings which had been in the family for generations—furniture such as a *Philadelphia Chippendale clock case* and a *Chippendale chest-on-chest made in Philadelphia in 1775*. The present owner of these treasured heirlooms is a descendant of the *Canbys* who came to America in 1684, lived in *Buck's County* and in 1740 moved to Wilmington and set up flour mills on the banks of the *Brandywine Creek*.

Many of the family pieces have been so adequately marked by their earlier owners that Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Rumford, 2nd—the present owners—can relate the history of both furniture and ancestors with authenticity. Much of the doll house furniture has been faithfully copied by Mr. Rumford's father from the original antique pieces.

When we asked Mrs. Rumford for permission to write an article based on the information in the newspaper, she not only gave us the go-ahead but offered additional facts that will be of even more interest to local readers. We quote her letter:

"The chest-on-chest pictured in the drawing room, and copied by Dr. Samuel C. Rumford for the doll house, was made in 1775 for David Deshler who built the house on Germantown Square, now known as the Deshler-Morris house. Undoubtedly it stood there until David Deshler's death in 1792 when It was willed to a daughter and was subsequently willed to a Canby descendant of Deshler's—the great, great, great grandfather of my husband."

It is really a strange coincidence that a chance copy of an out-of-town paper would find its way here and indirectly disclose the whereabouts of former Germantown furniture. When it comes down to it, "truth *is* stranger than fiction."

The hand carved miniature clock—copied from the original—adds special dignity with its classic lines to the doll house dining room.



An impressive grandfather clock with a Philadelphia Chippendale case and English works stand in the Rumford hallway. The clock was a wedding gift to Samuel Canby and Frances Lea in 1775.



←

The beautifully proportioned Chippendale chest-on-chest shown in the Rumford living room in the Guilford section of Baltimore, was made in 1775 for David Deshler. It stood in what is now known as the Deshler Morris house on Market Square until 1792.

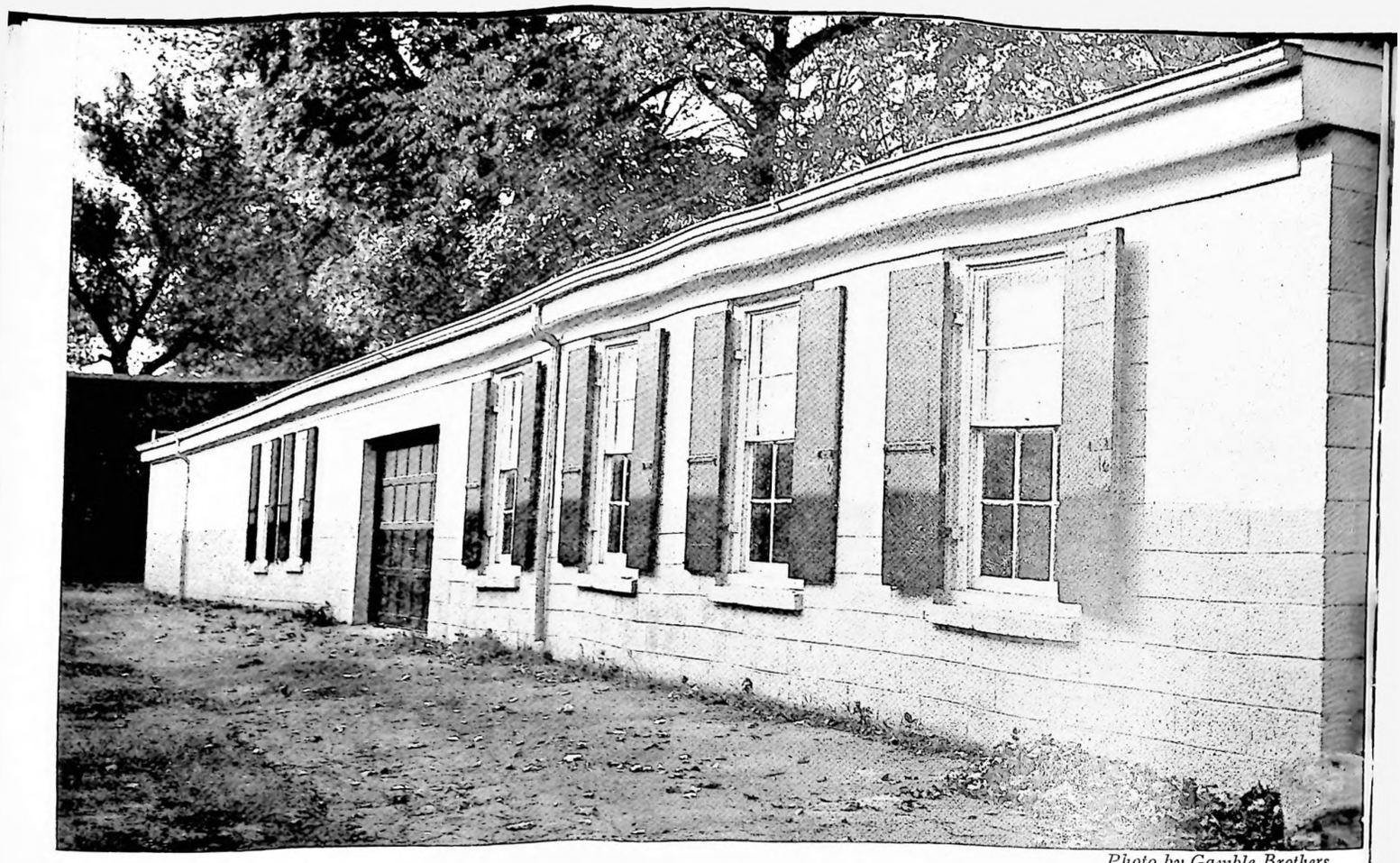


Photo by Gamble Brothers

The Museum Gains An Annex

SEVERAL years ago when the Baynton House, next to our Museum was listed for sale, the Members of our Board authorized a campaign to buy and save this historic house. Members responded promptly and the House was acquired and repaired—also by Members. The first floor rooms were fitted to take over the badly crowded Library and the second floor front rooms as an office for the CRIER.

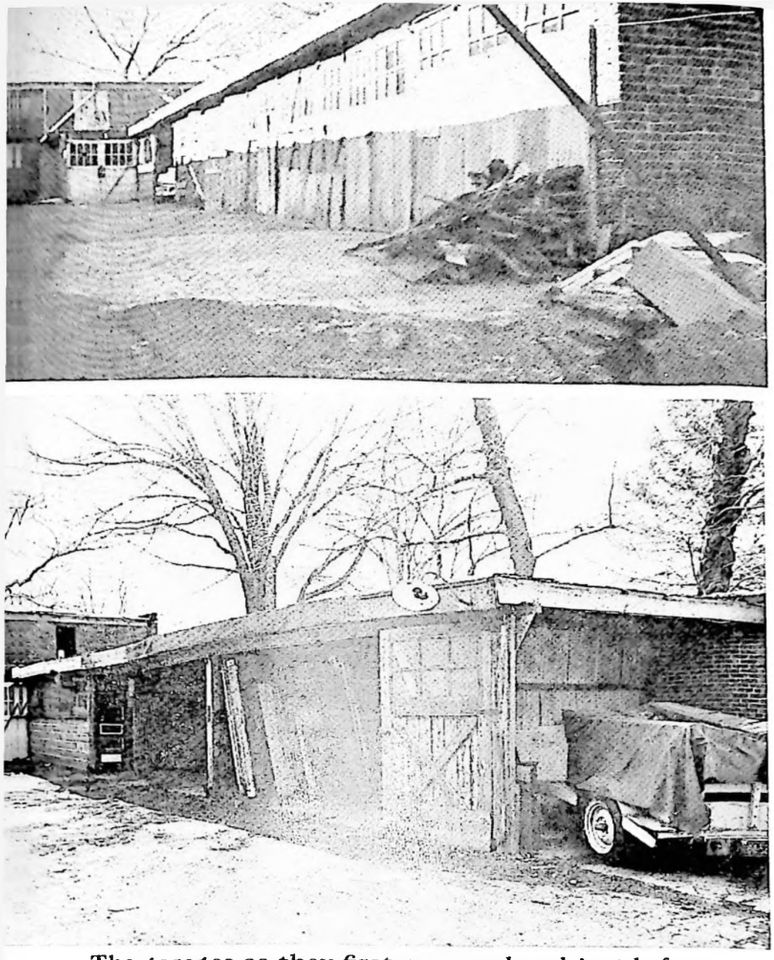
This property, originally the home of a prominent and public spirited resident of Germantown, Peter Baynton had suffered various alterations and additions, and the once rear garden had, according to tradition, been fitted with stables for mules and the wagons of the local ice man.

With the advent of the electric ice box and decline of this ice business the space was devoted to a row of individual garages for rent. These were apparently for the early and much smaller cars. As cars expanded in size and residents seemed disinclined to park their cars in garages, preferring to occupy much of the highways for this purpose, the garages fell into disuse and were badly damaged by vandals from the Park in the rear of the property. This was the condition when our Society bought the property.

Having many other expenses to meet we were not in a position to correct this at once. But with an increasing interest in historic matters and a great improvement in our Museum, the latter became more crowded and we were badly in need of more room especially for our larger displays.

We finally decided that the space occupied by the decrepit and practically useless garages could be utilized to good advantage as an "Annex" to the Museum. By remodeling and modernizing we would not only get the badly needed room for displays but would also improve the overall appearance of the property.

Our initial plans called for converting half of the garages to provide a building fifty by twenty feet. But before the Annex was completed, it was already overcrowded by the arrival of some large and unanticipated relics. We found it necessary to enlarge our plans to include the balance of the garages for a further addition adjoining the original. This second section has now been completed and the finished "Annex" now measures one hundred by twenty feet, has ample clear floor space and is well lighted. We were able to incorporate the old brick wall on the north side of the building although modern concrete block construction was used on the sides facing away from the Museum. The new south wall is fitted with an overhead garage door to permit the entry of large exhibits and contains several windows, hung with heavy old shutters originally used on Grumblethorpe.



The garages as they first appeared and just before the remodeling.

This provides much needed wall space, permitting display of large prints, drawings and maps as well as other material which could not well be shown elsewhere.

Also there is room for two most complete and elaborate doll houses, three old time sleighs of a type no longer to be seen,—also tables filled with tools and household implements of various periods. Some of these latter show a high degree of ingenuity and some excellent handicraft work.

One corner shows a replica of a small Pennsylvania Dutch room with corner cupboard, Franklin Stove and appropriate equipment.

There is a replica of the stocks used for punishment of offenders in early days, some sturdy old furniture apparently capable of enduring for many generations, interesting models of old Germantown Houses and other relics of old Germantown.

This material has been collected and is displayed to show how earlier residents of this area lived and to help serve our mission of preserving the customs, traditions and culture of Historic Germantown for the benefit particularly of local school classes as well as other residents and visitors to Germantown.

In this connection it seems appropriate to quote the motto we have framed near our Museum front door—a quotation from Abraham Lincoln.

"I like to see a man proud of the place where he lives. I like to see him so live that the place will be proud of him."

Museum A Growing Memorial To Thomas von Trott

THOMAS VON TROTT, curator of the Museum, chairman of the Relics Committee, and active member of our Board of Managers, died suddenly on October 17. Our Museum and its annex remain as a lasting reminder of the years of service given to our Society by Mr. von Trott.

The Museum owes much of its present well-furnished state largely to his efforts. About ten years ago, Mr. von Trott "led the attack" that reorganized the display area, spruced up both the exterior and interior appearance, and brought order out of threatened chaos by cataloging the hundreds of relics that were on the premises. These items—valuable antiques that graphically depict Germantown's early days—were then tastefully arranged for display.

During the intervening years, Mr. von Trott was instrumental in persuading many old Germantown families to donate their treasured heirlooms to the Society. Well-informed sources estimate that the relics in the Museum have practically doubled in number—and consequently grown in value—since Mr. von Trott assumed the curator appointment. A wide variety of items—ranging from toys to clocks to iron kitchen utensils—were personally donated by Mr. von Trott and his wife.

While the *name* von Trott was known on a national level because of the presidential flags and seals that he was commissioned to design and paint, it was the *man* von Trott who was a familiar personage in our community. He travelled the stretch of Germantown Avenue between Rittenhouse Street where he lived and Bringhurst Street in the vicinity of the Museum almost daily. The straight slender figure with the thinning white hair and the aristocratic face was well known to the residents and tradesmen along this route—especially during the past summer when the Museum addition was nearing completion. He was on hand to direct the painting, to arrange the displays and to help with the refurbishing where a particularly skilled hand was needed.

Those of us who personally knew Tom von Trott and who enjoyed the privilege of working with him will find it extremely difficult to go ahead without his help.

HISTORIC GERMANTOWN

HISTORIC GERMANTOWN FROM THE FOUNDING TO THE EARLY PART OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, an authoritative book on local history and architecture, is recommended to all who have an interest in Germantown. This book (150 pages, 9½ by 12 inches), published by the American Philosophical Society in 1955, was written by Harry M. Tinkcom, Margaret B. Tinkcom, and Grant M. Simon.

This substantial volume is available for $5.00, plus a mailing charge of 50¢. Orders for the book may be sent to:

Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr.
519 Pelham Road
Philadelphia, Pa. 19119

Checks should be made payable to Captain Crenshaw.

Happenings in Germantown
October 1964—October 1965

Phoebe Carlile Kidder

IT WAS a bit difficult, last fall, to determine in just what season of the year we were. Winter arrived in October for awhile, when temperatures dropped to 30 and 32 degrees, and a couple of records were broken. Then summer's warm days returned in November, and there was lack of rain everywhere in the eastern part of the country as the beautiful billowy white clouds dotted the blue skies.

After the drought and fair weather, Old Man Winter came with a bang in January. A near blizzard had scarcely subsided when a fresh fall of snow was dumped on top, followed shortly by a sleety rain. Ice covered everything, which caused treacherous walking and driving. How we welcomed the springtime with its beautiful shrubs and flowers for which the Philadelphia area is deservedly noted!

However, we soon moved into the pattern set by the past four years, a severe drought, with rivers running low, a threat to towns and cities. In July the Delaware River Basin Commission ordered a total of 466 million gallons of water released daily into the river from upstate and New York reservoirs and lakes to keep the dangerous, on-creeping salt line from reaching the intake at the Torresdale pumping station.

Historic Buildings

This year our chief house interest has been focused on one of the Victorian Era. The house, at Tulpehocken and Greene Streets, was built in 1859 by Ebenezer Maxwell, a Philadelphia merchant. According to old records, the Maxwells occupied the Tudor Victorian mansion only a few years. When the last owner, Miss Augusta Stevenson died in 1956, the house stood idle for awhile. It is now owned by the Unitarian Universalist Home, which is on the adjacent property, with the intention of using it for future expansion. With the backing of the Historical Society, forces are at work trying to raise the money to save the mansion and possibly make a Victorian Museum there. The Board of the Unitarian Universalist Home has agreed to lease the property to the Germantown Historical Society for 10 years. The Philadelphia Museum of Art will be glad to help with Victorian furnishings. Mr. Henry Magaziner heads a large committee in charge of the restoration of the house, which has already been started. A most successful Strawberry Festival was held there June 6th, at which time the house was open for inspection. The Philadelphia Historical Commission has certified the house as historic.

While one house is being saved, another has been lost. The destruction of the 265 year old Neglee House at 4518 Germantown Avenue was a severe blow to the National Park Service officials who are paving the way for Germantown's designation as a National Historic District. Owned by an estate, the property is leased to a nearby oil company, which tore down the house to make room for expansion.

The Gorgas House, built in 1798, stands at the corner of Germantown Avenue and Gorgas Lane. Having been used for commercial purposes the last few years, it has now been bought by Dr. Maurice C. Clifford who is renovating the house. His offices will be on the first floor, and living quarters on the second and third floors.

Starting in July there was much activity in Market Square, Germantown Avenue at School House Lane. An archeologist, Mr. Vincent P. Foley, with the help of three assistants, started excavating areas in the Square in the hopes of finding some original foundations or artifacts. Originally, in the Square there was an open air market, a firehouse, a gaol, and public stocks for punishment. Six boys from GIPSY were added to help with the digging. Each spadeful of earth was carefully sifted through a screen in hopes of rescuing a valuable clue to the area. Needless to say the passerby found much of interest to watch. Eventually, if foundations are located, the area will be reconstructed to its original appearance in the 1700's.

Religious and Educational Institutions

A big day in the 105 year history of the Lutheran Home for Orphans and Aged at Germantown Avenue and Sedgwick Street took place at the Annual Lawn Fete held early last fall. The usual entertainment and oyster supper was provided, but the "extra" was the ground breaking for 36 apartments for the aged, which have been designed to provide a home-like environment at low cost. At the 1965 Fete the apartments were dedicated, and Judge Saylor was the principal speaker.

Two Presbyterian Churches in Germantown merged on February 7th to form the Germantown Community United Presbyterian Church. The churches involved are the 107 year old Second Presbyterian Church at Greene and Tulpehocken Streets, and the 50 year old Faith Presbyterian Church at 5335 Pulaski Avenue. Second Presbyterian Church became the home of the new congregation.

St. Martin-in-the Fields Episcopal Church at Willow Grove Avenue and St. Martin's Lane, celebrated its 75th anniversary in February, with a special Sunday service, and a dinner party at the Philadelphia Cricket Club a few days later. The church was built and organized by one man, Mr. Henry H. Houston. At his death in 1895 he willed the church to a church corporation that had been formed, and the following year it was admitted to the diocese.

New sounds of worship rang out from the chancel of St. Peter's Episcopal Church at Wayne Avenue and Harvey Street when a Jazz Ensemble brought jazz to a Lenten meditation. The Presby Players, composed of young men and women, added the vocal selections. The Rev. G. Richard McKelvey is the new rector of the church.

Two hundred and six years ago Germantown Academy was founded. In June 1965 a meeting was held in Green Tree Inn, now the offices of the First Methodist Church. It was the final Germantown meeting of the Board of Germantown Academy. The fall of 1965 finds all grades of the now called Germantown Academy of Whitemarsh located at its new campus at Fort Washington.

Two schools—the Germantown Friends School and the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church—have been anxious to occupy the old Germantown Academy site at Greene Street and School House Lane. The latter has a number of high schools throughout the country. Final decision was made by the Redevelopment Authority last January who selected the Lutheran group. Germantown Lutheran Academy opened September 8th with grades 7, 8, and 9. It will be extended to 12 grades in succeeding years. Mr. John Dutton has been named its first headmaster. The historic buildings on the site will be renovated and preserved.

The William Penn Charter School, which celebrated its 275th anniversary last fall, has embarked on a fund drive to increase the facilities of the growing school. Under construction is a new athletic building. An anonymous gift of $500,000 will build a new library, which is scheduled to open next year.

Germantown Friends School has embarked on a community scholarship program. Six scholarships were granted, covering full aid in grades 7 through 12 to boys and girls formerly attending public schools. Decisions on applicants were made on the basis of interviews and tests. Many foundations are backing the project with substantial and generous support.

Electronics students at Germantown High School repaired and put in working order 26 non-playing radios, and an electric razor. The Working Home for the Blind picked them up from the school in time to distribute at Christmas.

The Opportunities Industrialization Center is extending its activities, and has formed a branch in Germantown. Organized by the Rev. Leon Sullivan, it is designed primarily for those who have not studied a trade, or school drop-outs who realize their earning abilities have been curtailed. Anyone who wants to learn a skill or trade may register. The Germantown Center is at 100 E. Price Street.

Social Activities

The Women's Committees of our hospitals are continually striving to raise money for special equipment. With their annual card parties and all day fairs, and many smaller affairs in between, the Germantown and Chestnut Hill and Women's Medical groups raise many thousands of dollars for their hospitals each year. An unusual added attraction sponsored by the Chestnut Hill Woman's Committee featured the Royal Canadian Navy Band at a fashion show and party held at the Sheraton Hotel.

On December 6th the Women's Committee of the Morris House held a tea at the Morris House in Germantown. It marked the 15th anniversary of the day the historic house was first opened to the public. Invitations were sent to all those who attended the original Open House in 1949. The beautiful decorations and flower arrangements made a charming setting for the affair. On March 29th the annual card party for the Morris House took place. It was held, this year, at Aulenbach House on Tulpehocken Street, which proved to be a most pleasant and satisfying place to hold the affair.

May 27th was the date of the Upsala card party, held at Upsala. The newly decorated "Connelly Room," and the new draperies in the drawing room were on display for the first time to the many interested guests.

Following last year's pattern Germantown Week was held May 9th through May 16th omitting a Fair Day. However, each day of the week had many activities scheduled, ending with the Wissahickon Horse Show, and the Tour of Historic Germantown Houses on Sunday the 16th. The Tour, which was sponsored by the Germantown Historical Society, was confined to upper Germantown, and listed 10 houses that were open. One big attraction was "Cliveden" the Chew mansion at Germantown Avenue and Johnson Street. Open to the public for the first time were the Peter Keyser house, 6316 Germantown Avenue, and the Gorski Gallery at 6377 Germantown Avenue, which proved most interesting to the tour members.

People in the News

Mr. Benton Spruance of W. Walnut Lane, the noted Philadelphia painter and lithographer, is the first artist to be honored with the annual award of the Philadelphia Sketch Club. He was chosen as the person who has contributed the most distinguished service to the arts in the Delaware Valley in the previous twelve months. Mr. Spruance is also the 1965 winner of the Philadelphia Art Alliance Medal of Achievement, the organization's highest honor.

Mrs. S. Dana Weeder, a Chestnut Hill sculptress, and one of our members, has modeled a set of wild animals for blind children to feel. Modeled to scale of one inch to the foot, the finished animals are cast in a grayish plastic. The Overbrook School for the Blind has nine of the models of large wild animals. The Upsal Day School has started its set with a camel.

After a wonderful record with the Germantown Community Council as its first secretary, Mrs. Ruth Bellis retired from that post the end of March. With ability and ease, for 15 years she worked with five different executive directors, and a new president every two years. Her valuable help and information will be missed.

The Reverend Leon H. Sullivan of Germantown, was the winner of the Fellowship Commission's 1964 Philadelphia Fellowship award for his "outstanding contribution in the field of inter-group relations" made in the Greater Philadelphia area during the preceding year. He was also honored "for creating and bringing to fruition the Opportunities Industrialization Center, the first of its kind in the United States."

Mr. William T. Harris, who for 34 years has been director of the Germantown Boys' Club, retired last spring. Under his guidance the Club has grown and prospered. He was the recipient of the Club's "Man of the Year" award.

Mrs. Walter T. Moore, one of Germantown's "oldest ladies," and a member of the Society of Friends, died March 6th. She would have been 104 years old on April 15th. Up until a year ago she lived at 121 W. Coulter Street, the house in which she was born.

The Germantown Historical Society regrets to report the loss, by death, of the following members: Mr. I. Melville Stein, Mrs. Florence Nason, Mrs. Henrietta Blakeslee, Mrs. F. Stokes Coleman, Miss Alice M. Connor, Mr. Victor F. Emerson, Miss Lucille Hiatt, Mrs. Francis H. Kent, Mrs. I. Pearson Willits, Mrs. Raymond F. Leopold, Mrs. William L. Barclay, Mr. G. Clarence Johnson, and Thomas A. von Trott.

Random Observations

The Woman's Club of Germantown has established a fund in memory of Mrs. Charles C. Heyl, a former president of the Club and one of its charter members. A second floor room in the Johnson House at Germantown Avenue and Washington Lane is to be known as the Mable M. Heyl room. The room has been done over and refurnished. Historic Johnson House is the club house of the Woman's Club of Germantown, of which Mrs. Carl Searing is the new president. It has been cited by the Philadelphia Historical Commission as being of historical significance.

It is interesting to note while searching the records for Ebenezer Maxwell's background, a book was found in the Friends Library, "Germantown, Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill" by S. F. Hotchkins. In it, an article about St. Vincent's Church on Price Street named Capt. Biand de Morainville, a French engineer, as the architect. There were no Church records telling who designed the edifice.

It is not every contestant for the Miss America crown has her clothes made here in Germantown. Judith Lynn McConnell, Miss Pennsylvania, had her complete Atlantic City wardrobe designed and made by Lauralou Bates at her Carriage Shop at 5916 Green Street. Unfortunately the beautiful costumes did not win the top spot for her.

The summer show given by the Stagecrafters this year was a musical, their first, "Take me Along." The six night run played to packed houses and many were turned away.

In July a huge 80 foot horse chestnut tree had to be removed from the lawn at Upsala. The 150 year old tree was found by the Fairmount Park Commission to be a menace to the public.

While on the subject of trees, a large area of hemlocks and other trees have been removed from the slope above Wissahickon Creek near Rex Avenue, to make way for a sewer line to be installed. The contractor must plant new trees for those he cuts down, but other generations will be the ones to enjoy them.

"Kresheim," once the home of the George Woodward family, at Mermaid Lane and McCallum Street, was formally dedicated last November as an official study center for the United Presbyterian Board of Christian Education. Guests of many faiths attended the ceremony. Many groups have booked time to use the facilities for study and discussion.

The 26 year old ambulance which belonged to Germantown Hospital, a gift of the Henry H. Houston Post #3, American Legion, has found its way to the other side of the globe. Still in use, it has been traced to the American University in Beirut, after having also been used in Lebanon.

Two very successful teen-age coffee houses have been open Friday nights. "The Lid," at the Church of the Epiphany, and the "Glass Door," at First Methodist Church, offer games, folk singing and dancing, or discussions take place if desired. The room at "The Lid" was painted by the teen-agers themselves, and their contributions keep the place going.

The Annual Tour of the Germantown Historical Society was held October 16, 1965. In brilliant sunshine the buses departed promptly at 9.30 traveling over a beautiful section of our country. The first stop was the Bucks County Historical Society in Doylestown, a most interesting building. Then on to points near or in New Hope and Washington Crossing: the Parry Barn, the Thompson-Neely House, where so much history was made, and the Washington Crossing Memorial Building. The usual good time was had by members and their friends.

Horse and Buggy Memories

By MARION RIVINUS

MOTORING along Stenton Avenue with its industrial, so called progress, I got to thinking of the days when all that part was open fields and cow pastures.

My Grandmother used to take daily drives in the afternoon, in a carriage called a Browning, drawn by two grey horses and driven by a coachman in correct whipcord livery.

One of the treats for us youngsters was to be invited to accompany her, taking along some of our picture books which we presented to the children who watched the cows in the fields.

There was a large pond by the side of the road. I think it was just before you got to Washington Lane, but am not sure. Distance in a horse and carriage and to small eyes, was much longer than roaring over the same way in an automobile.

When I got old enough to have a 22 gage rifle, my Uncle and I would drive to this pond and, after carefully tying the horse to a nearby fence, would shoot enough frogs for the family dinner. Imagine frogs in those parts today.

On the opposite side of the road a wooded lane called Rabbit Lane led to Daddy Miller's house. I never knew his full name, but he was called "Daddy" because he was the oldest driver of a coach and four horses in the Coaching world.

The typical Victorian house was set back among the trees which impressed me as being spooky and gloomy and I was sure there were ghosts wandering about it. There is a modern housing development there now.

Another time while driving with my Grandfather, we passed some fields where a man was working on the post and rail fence. Grandfather stopped and after bidding him Good Day, asked who owned that field and what he did for a living? The man grumpily replied, "I do, and sometimes I mend fences."

It made a great impression on me as I had never heard anyone rude to my Grandfather before.

Every Spring we children were dressed in our best bib and tucker and driven to Germantown to have our yearly pictures taken. I think the photographer's name was Hassler.

We were firmly seated on an iron chair before the huge box camera which was covered by a black cloth and our heads were held steady by a steel clamp. When all was arranged to suit the pose, the photographer disappeared under the black cloth and told us to look at "the birdie." As we never could see any "birdie," this probably accounted for our almost natural expressions.

Long after motors came in, my family continued to drive horses in to town. We went by Stenton Avenue and down Broad Street. We drove a pair of horses in the morning which we left in our town stable and returned with a fresh pair from there in the evening. It was a pleasure to pass the stately homes which then lined Broad Street. Sometimes we stopped at what was considered the last word in Hotels, the Majestic, for high tea.

Gone are the green tree-lined Stenton Avenue, and the stately Broad Street homes, even the glittering Majestic, industry and grime have taken their places.

Today, we whisk all over the world in an atmosphere of carbon monoxide. Great is Human Nature that we can take it.



Illustration by Charles Gimpel

Scream of the Wind

ELIZABETH REEVES HUMPHREYS

Listen! The wind is wailing, wailing,
Wild as a snow-leopard's cry—
Cold is the night with fangs of ice—
Scream of the wind goes high.

Down from the north come drifts of snow
Like clouds of crystal flowers
Borne on the arm of bitter gusts
Whitening night's black hours.

Cold, soft-padded, creeps through the house,
I fasten the storm-shutters tight—
Listen! The snow-leopard screams again—
Wild is the winter night!



The elk described in Poe's "Morning on the Wissahiccon."

CHRISTMAS ANNUAL *(Continued from page 108)*

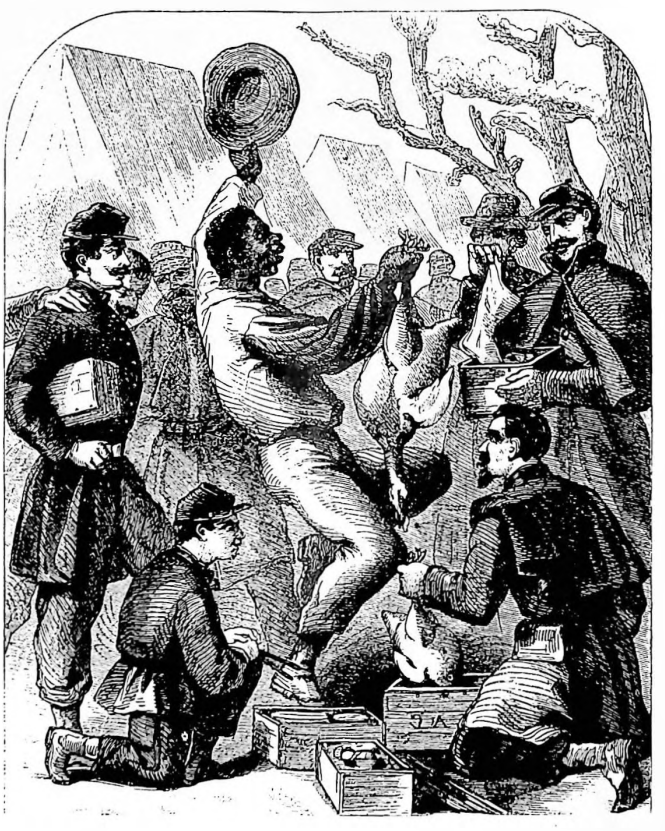
"Not long ago I visited the stream, and spent the better part of a sultry day in floating in a skiff upon its bosom. The heat gradually overcame me, and, resigning myself to the influence of the scenes and of the weather, and of the gently moving current, I sank into a half slumber, during which my imagination revelled in visions of the Wissahiccon of ancient days—of the 'good old days' when the Demon of the engine was not, when picnics were undreamed of, when 'water privileges' were neither bought nor sold, and when the red man trod alone, with the elk, upon the ridges that now towered above. And, while gradually these conceits took possession of my mind, the lazy brook had borne me, inch by inch, around one promontory and within full view of another that bounded the prospect at the distance of forty or fifty yards. It was a stiff rocky cliff, abutting far into the stream, and presenting much more of the Salvator character than any portion of the shore hitherto passed. What I saw upon this cliff, although surely an object of very extraordinary nature, the place and season considered, at first neither startled nor amazed me—so thoroughly and appropriately did it chime in with the half-slumberous fancies that enwrapped me, I saw, or dreamed that I saw, standing upon the extreme verge of the precipice, with neck outstretched, with ears erect, and the whole attitude indicative of profound and melancholy inquistiveness, one of the oldest and boldest of those identical elks which had been coupled with the red man of my vision.

"I say that, for a few moments, this apparition neither startled nor amazed me. During this interval my whole soul was bound up in intense sympathy alone. I fancied the elk repining, not less than wondering, at the manifest alterations for the worse, wrought upon the brook and its vicinage, even with the last few years, by the stern hand of the utilitarian. But a slight movement of the animal's head at once dispelled the dreaminess which invested me, and aroused me to a full sense of the novelty of the adventure. I arose upon one knee within the skiff, and, while I hesitated whether to stop my career, or let myself float nearer to the object of my wonder, I heard the words 'hist!' 'hist!' ejaculated quickly but cautiously, from the shrubbery overhead. In an instant afterwards, a negro emerged from the thicket, putting aside the bushes with care, and treading stealthily. He bore in one hand a quantity of salt, and, holding it towards the elk, gently yet steadily approached. The noble animal, although a little fluttered, made no attempt at escape. The negro advanced; offered the salt; and spoke a few words of encouragement and conciliation. Presently, the elk bowed and stamped, and then lay quietly down and was secured with a halter.

"Thus ended my romance of the elk. It was a pet of great age and very domestic habits, and belonged to an English family occupying a villa in the vicinity."

Thus ends my story of the Christmas Annuals, and I am sure you will agree with me, that it has been a rewarding experience.

Christmas at Camp.



Godey's Lady Book of one hundred and one years ago devoted a full page to depicting a camp scene at Christmastime. Boxes of gifts and goodies and downright necessities were sent to the boys who were away from home fighting for their country.

It's not too different now. The uniforms have changed, of course, and the housing is less primitive. But, in many places all over the world this year there are men in uniform who will spend Christmas in Camp.

OBITUARY

GEORGE CLARENCE JOHNSON, architect, who was honorary vice president of the Germantown Historical Society, died suddenly October 5, in his home, 158 W. Penn St. He was 84.

For 35 years a member of the architectural firm of Horace Trumbauer, G. Clarence Johnson participated in the design and construction of E. T. Stotesbury's "Whitemarsh Hall" and the enormous residences of P. A. B. Widener and William L. Elkins.

He served the Vanderbilt family, at Newport, R. I., and the Goulds, at Lakehurst, N. J. He was the architect for the home of James B. Clews, banker, in Locust Valley, L. I., among many other of the richest individuals of the first quarter of the century.

He was a designer of the Widener Memorial Library, at Harvard University; the chapel, at Duke University; the Philadelphia Art Museum, on the Parkway, and the Public Library, on Logan Square.

Ten years ago, he contributed his architectural services for the restoration of "Grumblethorpe," the 221-year-old Wister house, at 5265 Germantown Ave.

In 1949, Mr. Johnson restored the exterior of the "Ashmead House," at 5434 Germantown Ave., and adapted the interior to banking. The building is 169 years old.

Clarence Johnson was descended from Dirck Jansen, tanner, who immigrated to Germantown from Holland.

The family first built the "Johnson House," on the northwest corner of Washington La. and Germantown Ave., then the 23-room mansion, "Upsala," on Germantown Ave. at Cliveden St. Both homes still stand.

Mr. Johnson was vice president and architect of the Upsala Foundation, which restored and now is maintaining and furnishing the 165-year-old Federal-Colonial landmark. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Colonial Society and Livezey Family Association.

In 1918, he married the former Christine Evans, of Overbrook, daughter of Dorrance Evans, an early member of the Union League.

The couple lived at 30 W. Johnson St. until 1939, when they moved to the Penn St. address. Mr. Johnson retired from Trumbauer about 1937. His hobbies included stamp, autograph, coin and book collecting. He owned a cup and saucer used by Benjamin Franklin.

The Historical Society sincerely regrets the loss of a valuable member of its Board of Managers.

Report of the Relics Committee

THOMAS VON TROTT, Chairman

We have received at the Museum:

One cast iron cover plate, for shut off valve, inscribed: Germantown Water Co. Brought in by **Mr. John Welthall.**

Painting in color of the "Old Water Works" formerly on Wissahickon Creek at Walnut Lane. Presented by **Mr. David Rittenhouse,** a direct descendant of The David Rittenhouse in memory of his mother, Anna M. C. Rittenhouse.

Victorian Dressing Bureau. Was the property of President Zachary Taylor. Also 3 tables. Presented by **Mrs. Magame,** 4958 Wakefield St.

"Little Giant"—mechanical seeder. Made by S. B. Rittenhouse, Liberty Mills, Indiana. Presented by **Miss Ruth Weinert,** Wynnewood, Pa.

Lot containing papers, photos, books and an antique silver watch from Miss Whiteman, 160 Wyneva St. Presented through **Earle N. Barber, Jr.**

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Magazine

The GERMANTOWNE CRIER, published in March, May, September, and December, is available at the subscription rate of $1.00 annually.

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Checks, payable to the Germantown Historical Society, should include mailing charges as listed or 25¢ per order of pamphlets or single numbers of the magazine.

A Map of

Historic Germantown

Designed by J. Riegel, Jr.

This detailed map, a portion of which is shown below, shows the locations of streets, historic buildings, churches, etc. It is replete with data concerning local people, places, and events.

Size: 19 by 25 inches

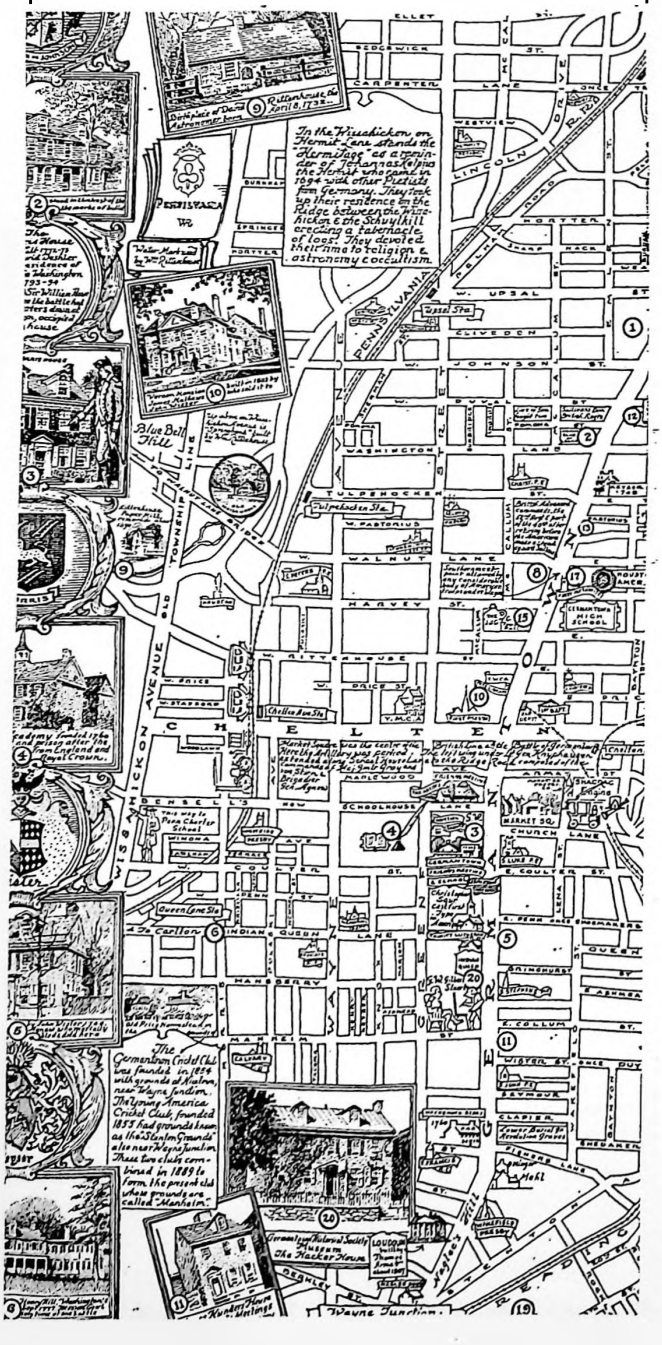
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CHEL-WAYNE: 156 West Chelten Avenue

CHESTNUT HILL: 8601 Germantown Avenue at Evergreen Avenue

WYNNEWOOD: Wynnewood Shopping Center

CEDARBROOK MALL: Cheltenham Avenue & Easton Raad

Your deposits insured to $10,000 in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation