GERMANTOWNE CRIER



LOUDOUN, THE RESIDENCE OF MRS. ANNA A. LOGAN.

(See Story on Page 65)

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 3 **FORTY CENTS** **SEPTEMBER, 1967**

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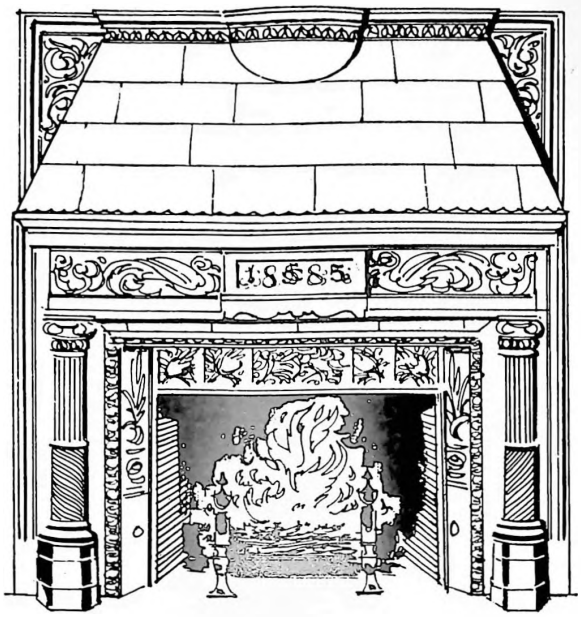
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Published March, May, September, December—Germantown Historical Society

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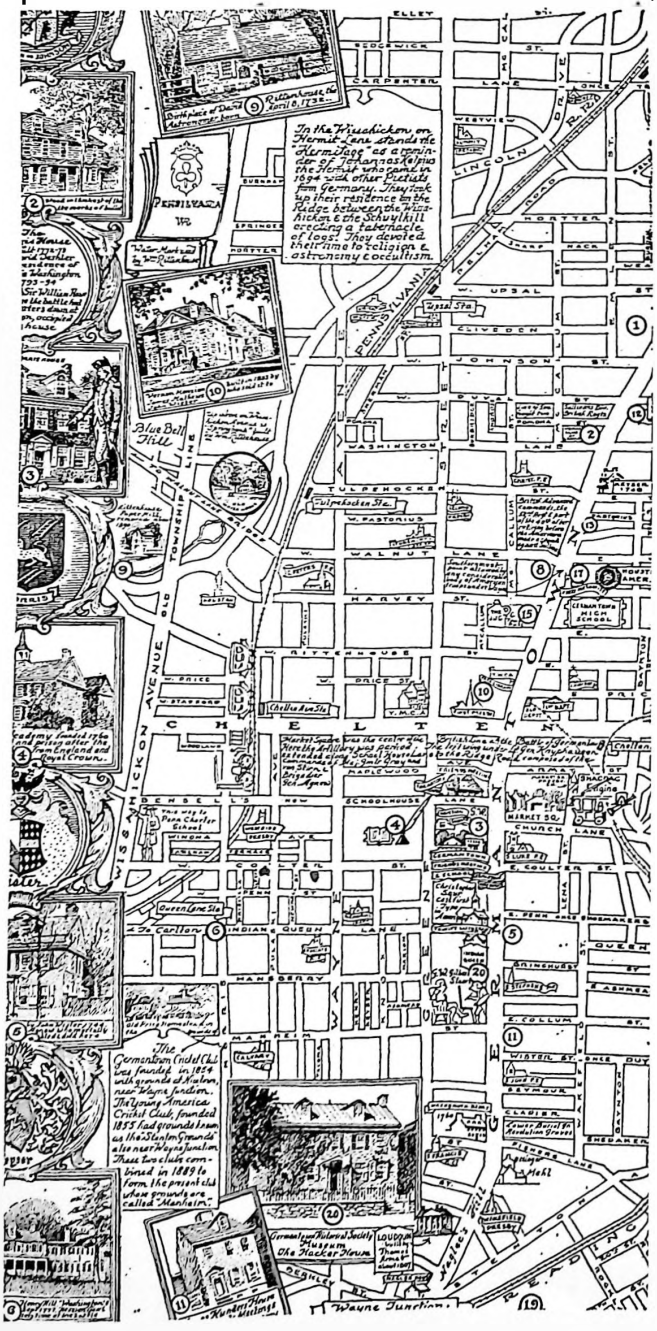
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The GERMANTOWNE CRIER, published in March, May, September, and December, is available at the subscription rate of $1.50 annually.

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LOUDOUN

By SARAH A. G. SMITH

An "Old Germantowner" saw three Queen Ann chairs in Loudoun and fell in love with them. The result was one of Germantown's most interesting love affairs. It brought to light the largest accumulation of historic material ever discovered in Germantown. Miss Smith tells how the project was started and gives a general picture of the findings and the problems involved.

As the materials are studied and catalogued much interesting subject matter will become available for future articles in the Crier. *We hope this article by Miss Smith will be the first in a series on Loudoun.*

"LOUDOUN" is an impressive mansion of the Federal period. It was built by Thomas Armat in 1801 and rises some thirty feet above Germantown Avenue to the northwest of Wayne Junction. Mrs. John W. Farr, an "Old Germantowner," saw three magnificent Queen Ann chairs in the front hall of Loudoun and fell completely in love with them. She was so inspired by the chairs in their neglected and unloved setting that she started a project which has led to the rediscovery of Loudoun and its return to a rightful place among the show mansions of old Philadelphia.

The amazing story begins with a visit, by Mrs. Farr, to Loudoun the day before the 1966 Tour of Germantown's Historic Houses. She understood that the two lower floors of the house would be in order and ready to be seen by visitors. Great was her dismay to find that nothing had been done; even the three lovely chairs were as neglected as before! Quickly she recruited the aid of her sister and the two of them did what they could to right the situation in the short time that was left. The next day, May 15, according to plan, visitors trooped in to see Loudoun.

What the general public thought of Loudoun was not known, but what Mrs. Farr thought of its sorry state soon was. Shortly after the Germantown Tour she met Judge Harold D. Saylor at the annual garden party of the Germantown Historical Society. His friendly concern for all pertaining to old Germantown inspired her, then and there, to enlist his aid in the cause of Loudoun. He advised her to go direct to the office of the Fairmount Park Commission. On June 22, Mrs. Farr had a conference with Mr. Harold Schick, Director, at "Belmont." Following Mr. Schick's suggestion she wrote a letter to the Park Commission outlining her vision; Loudoun should be restored to its former beauty and opened to the public. Such had been the intention of its last occupant, Miss Maria Dickinson Logan, who died in 1939, leaving the house, with an endowment, to the City of Philadelphia, in memory of her mother, Anna Armat Logan.

On September 21, 1966, the first meeting of the committee,* later known as the "Friends of Loudoun," was held and plans for the house were discussed.

Mrs. Farr, having been notified that she and her committee could proceed with the plans for Loudoun, launched the first attack on November 16. Armed with vacuum, brushes, and dustclothes and appropriately dressed for the work ahead, with the assistance of several cleaning women, the committee started on the third floor. Before many hours had passed, surrounded though they were by dust and dirt, they realized that the task they faced was far more than simply cleaning and restoring. They were in the midst of a vast collection of museum quality objects. It soon became evident that, for the first time, a house had come under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission just as the last owners had left it. What a wealth of things they had left behind!

All the reasons the contents of the house remained intact are not known but the fortunate result was the happy preservation of Maria Dickinson Logan's possessions. The caretakers for many years, Mrs. Ethel Watson and her son, Thomas F. Watson, were very careful that nothing should be changed. The whole house had been very much locked up when they came in and therefore no one was allowed to unlock the closets, chests, trunks, and bureau drawers all of which were crammed full of interesting things. The locked facade that confronted the casual visitor did not inspire curiosity and, apparently, no one ever imagined that all kinds of treasures were stored away under lock and key. Such was the situation that greeted the members of the committee on that first memorable day.

On that first day the committee spread out quantities of keys on a huge, four-poster bed. Some were labeled and some were not. There was much running back and forth as keys were tried in first one lock, then another, with varying degrees of success. Actually, it took days

**Note:* The committee members were:
MRS. JOHN W. FARR, (*Chairman*)
MRS. RALPH H. BELCHER
MRS. JOHN M. HYK
MRS. JOHN D. STARK
MISS SARAH A. G. SMITH
The following also assisted as time and circumstances permitted:
MRS. OTTO BAUHOF
MRS. MARGARET HALSEY
MISS ELIZABETH EICHMAN
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to get everything unlocked, for some trunks and drawers defied all efforts and a locksmith had to be called in. Now it is believed that every locked door and every locked container, from attic to cellar, has been opened and searched. Only those who have participated in this project know how much work has been involved and how much excitement felt.

A special surprise on that first day of work was an unannounced visit to Loudoun by the Mayor, himself. A member of the committee, who had access to Mayor Tate, had suggested that he drop in after attending a program at the nearby Mifflin School. Suddenly, in he came and Mrs. Farr led him attic-wards, toward the main center of activity. It was mid-afternoon and by this time all the workers had got themselves quite dirty. In spite of their appearance the Mayor seemed pleased with what he saw and offered several suggestions.

Even before the Mayor's visit several workers had uncovered a hoard of manuscript papers and journals, mostly hidden away in a large, dark, third floor closet. Some of these were in a miniature leather trunk, others in a huge, matching, six-footer, and still others had been hastily dropped into linen pillow cases and tied with string. Quickly it was recognized that these manuscript materials had some historic interest for the names on them were Logan, Dickinson, Norris, and Armat—all names of importance in the development of Philadelphia, and the dates on some were early 18th century. Alert to the dangers of fire and theft, Mrs. Farr decided that the papers should be taken to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and left there on deposit. The Park Commission, at their December meeting gave custodianship of the "Loudoun Papers" to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and any suitable books were to go to the Library Company of Pennsylvania.

From November until March members of the committee went through the many remaining papers and subsequently gained much valuable background on the house, its contents, and the people who had lived at Loudoun. On March 1, Mr. Nicholas B. Wainwright, Director of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, Librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia, came and removed a truck load of papers and books to their respective collections.

As work on the house began Mrs. Farr sought advice of various experts. Invaluable suggestions were given her by Dr. Margaret Tinkcom, Historian of the Philadelphia Historic Commission. Specialists came also from the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the National Park Service, as well as from the Philadelphia Textile Institute and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. All recognized Loudoun as a find and contributed from their knowledge towards its restoration.

As time went on more treasures appeared. The great loft opening off the stairs to the northwest, just below the third floor level, was a constant source of surprises. It had served as a catch-all for five generations of Armats and Logans and still contained thirty-eight trunks! In this confusion all kinds of riding equipment and farm equipment were found; there were fascinating clothes of many periods, and some elegant ladies' dresses with parasols to match, a magnificent collection of rifles (loaded!), many powder flasks, all kinds of stoves and lamps. In closets on lower levels beautiful examples of china, glass, and pewter were discovered, as well as drapes and materials of great variety.

In rearranging the second and first floors much attention has been given to furniture and furnishings. The furniture ranges in period from the Queen Ann chairs, through Chippendale, Sheraton, and Duncan Phyfe, to all varieties of Victorian and strange importations from Europe brought back by members of the family in 1839-1840. In just the short time the committee has been working at Loudoun members of the family who lived there have come to life from among the relics and portraits so that it has been like living in another, by-gone, world.

The process of restoration may have seemed slow at times but there has never been any delay in the wonderful cooperation given the committee by Mr. Philip Price, Vice President of the Park Commission. Thanks to his understanding and enthusiastic interest many projects have gone on at Loudoun guided by Mr. William Capman, Secretary of the Park Commission, and supervised on the spot by Mrs. Farr and Mrs. John D. Stark, who have been on hand day after day to oversee these undertakings. The house has been maintained in good structural condition and has now been painted from top to ground level. The plumbing and electric system have both been completely restored. The committee continues the sorting and arranging of furnishings at the date of this writing.

It is still too early to predict all that is implied in the revival of Loudoun. Both work and study will go on for a long time to come and it is hoped that out of town visitors as well as Germantowners will have some share in its enjoyment.

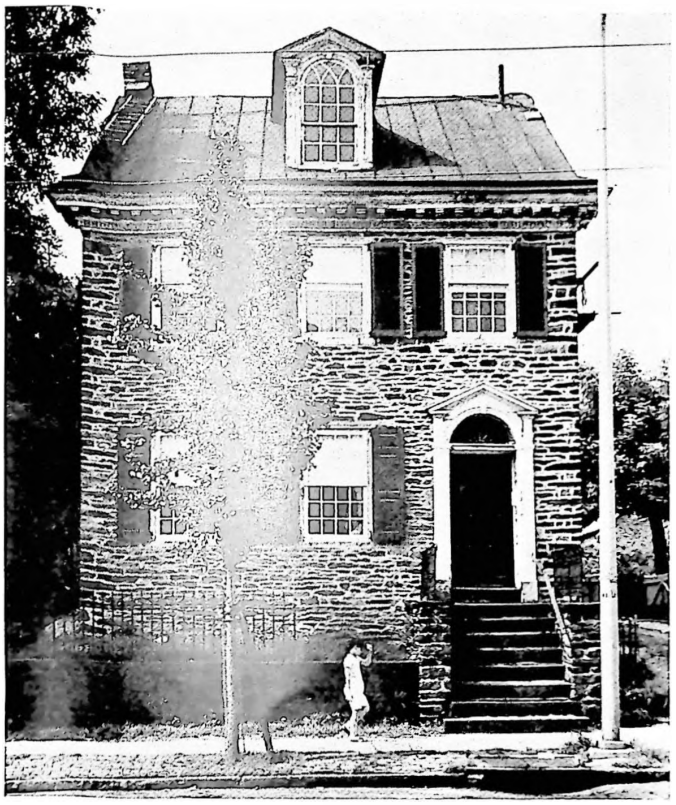
Open House will be held at Loudoun on Sunday, October 1st, from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M., for members of the Germantown Historical Society and their Friends.

R.S.V.P. GE 8-2828

THE HOWELL HOUSE

By MARGARET BACON BOSTWICK

If you had seen the Howell House one year ago you would have proper appreciation of the time and labor involved in repairs, refinishing, and the installation of the exhibits. Captain Crenshaw, with a minimum of professional help, took care of the repairs and refinishing. Mrs. Bostwick installed the exhibits. The Crier *salutes them! Come and visit our new museum.*



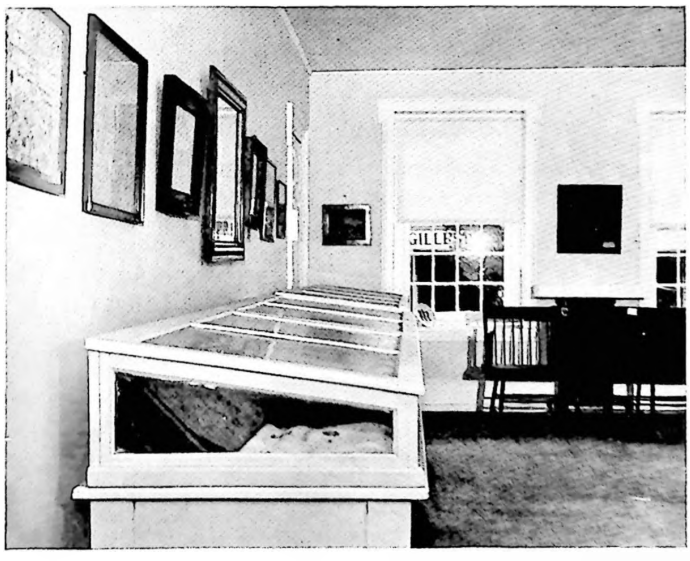
IN 1966, through the generosity of Mr. Charles Woodward, the Germantown Historical Society acquired the Howell House at 5218 Germantown Avenue and thus completed the group of old buildings referred to as "the compound."

The house was built about 1770 by William Forbes and was later acquired by the Hacker family. It has been enlarged twice. The front portion is the original. The back, with the fancy, iron grill work, was added later. The oldest part of the house has been chosen as the pattern for remodeling as it matches the other houses in the compound.

As the photograph indicates, it is built of stone with stone steps leading up to the front door from Germantown Avenue. The windows are painted white. Those on the first floor are 12 over 12; those on the second floor, 8 over 12. The front yard will be planted with pachysandra when the iron fence has been repaired.

The first floor interior was originally two rooms but at some time in the past a partition was removed and it is now one large room (see photographs). A marble mantle has been replaced with a colonial one and a very Victorian bay window and a few other discordant mementos have been removed. As the house is rather dark, the walls have been painted a cheerful yellow. The walls and woodwork needed repairs in many places.

After the new cases were in place and the painting finished we moved in. On the first floor cases were set up for quilts and other hand-work. The Stella Von Trott case contains several hand-woven spreads done in Germantown in 1830-1860. A fine chintz quilt commemorates the crowning of Queen Victoria on June 28, 1838. The Mellor Estate case holds fine examples of candle-wick work. Scenes of old Philadelphia in





1824, patchwork, applique, and fine embroidery appear on many of the quilts. On the walls are excellent examples of samplers and other types of needle work. The window in the back hall contains a sample of the second floor exhibits.

The back room on the first floor contains many articles given to the Society by Miss Ida Bates Groff. Her Indian shawls and remembrances of the Yeakle family are noteworthy. A fine old wardrobe dated "S 1776 W" was used by the Yeakle family in the home on Germantown Pike and Bethlehem Pike. Also in the room is a fine old square piano given by Mrs. Schaeffer. It was made by John Lang of Philadelphia, who, according to the last Business Directory, worked on Spring Garden Street from 1825 to 1860. On the walls are several portraits of the Whitemore family donated by Mrs. Jennings.

The second floor is devoted to toys and dolls. In one corner is "Belsnickle" or Santa Claus, with a pack full of things for good little boys and girls. He was made in Germantown in 1840. There are several fine examples of cut-down furniture and miniature furniture. Dolls and dolls' clothing from all ages and varied examples of doll china can be seen.

GERMANTOWN STRONG MEN



IN HIS *Guide Book to Historic Germantown* Charles F. Jenkins tells of "one Anthony Gilbert, a blacksmith (who lived at 5267 Main Street) noted for his great physical strength. He was known to write his name on a board fence with a piece of chalk with five, fifty-six-pound weights hanging on his arm."

The Rev. S. F. Hotchin in his *Ancient and Modern Germantown, Mount Airy, and Chestnut Hill,* describes another picturesque character:

> Piscator Langstroth was a paper maker when paper was made by hand. He was engaged at the McDowell's Mills on the Pennypack, on the Newtown Railroad. He afterwards came to Livezy's Mill on the Wissahickon and carried on the business in connection with his brother, John. Piscator Langstroth was, like Charles Sumner, a man of extraordinary strength, having lifted seven fifty-sixes and a twenty-eight pound weight with one hand. He could have lifted more had the weights been at hand. He could lift a full barrel of cider and drink from the bung hole. Piscator Langstroth married Elizabeth Lehman, daughter of Benjamin Lehman, Sr., who lived in the old stone house on Main Street near School Lane, occupied (1888) by Dr. Topley as a dentist's office. He died in 1861, at the age of 71, in the house now occupied by the Workingmen's Club on Chelten Avenue. He was a member of the Dunker Church. The First Presbyterian Church on Chelten Avenue is on the site of what was known as George Barr's spring, which was enlarged to a fish pond by Piscator Langstroth.

Both of these rugged gentlemen used weights that were multiples of 14 pounds, the English unit of weight known as the "stone," apparently in common usage in the Germantown of those days.



GERMANTOWN MARKET HOUSE AND FIRE ENGINE QUARTERS

MARKET SQUARE

By Margaret B. Tinkcom

This article was prepared by Dr. Tinkcom, Historian of the Philadelphia Historic Commission, as a report on Market Square for Colonial Germantown, Inc. Mr. Jack Hornung, Executive Director of Colonial Germantown, and Dr. Tinkcom have given the Crier *permission to publish it and we are happy to express our appreciation. This is a scholarly work by a professional historian giving an authenticated history of Market Square and much valuable information on early Germantown.*

SHELTER, food, and communication with the outside world are primary needs of man. The founders of Germantown, aware of the importance of satisfying these needs, took steps to organize a market at a convenient spot in their newly surveyed townsite shortly after settlers began to move into the area. The original survey of the township was made in 1683 by Thomas Fairman. Resurveys, also by Fairman, were made in 1684 and 1687 and the warrant for the Frankfort Company's land was finally issued in 1689. In that same year the borough of Germantown was chartered by William Penn (royal approval was obtained in 1691).[1] By the terms of this charter, the residents were privileged to hold "one publick Market every sixth day of the week." Accordingly, the town officers reserved an acre of ground for "a marketplace, graveyard, and also for public buildings on the west side [of the Germantown Road] in front of the sixth lot by a cross street [West Queen Lane] in the middle of the Town."[2]

There is no evidence that this acre of publicly owned land was ever put to use. The townsfolk were not yet in a position to develop an urban marketplace and, for the time being, they found it more convenient to hold the market in the street. For some reason the Queen Lane location also proved unsuitable and after ten years of use, the inhabitants indicated their intention of making other arrangements to accommodate their market.[3] Until these new arrangements could be completed, however, they petitioned the governor and his council for confirmation of their old right to hold a weekly market "in the Roads or highway where the Cross street of Germantown goes down towards the Scullkill." Both the petition and the official reply make it clear that this location will be used only "till such time as the inhabitants shall be able to procure a place more agreeable to the purpose."[4]

The change in the location of the market is symbolic of the change in town planning noted by Francis Daniel Pastorius in his introductory comments to the "Grund und Lager Buch" wherein the early land grants were recorded. Pastorius quickly discovered that the character of the land and the wishes of the settlers had to be taken into account when a new community was being planned. He wrote: ". . . our first intention was to stop with twenty-five lots; accordingly, we then reserved an acre for a market place, a graveyard, and also for public buildings on the west side in front of the sixth lot by a cross street in the middle of the town; but inasmuch as a number of former servants and others arriving from Germany wished to remain and live with us in Germantown, we increased the number of lots to fifty-five. In like manner, it was our intention that the long street was to run in a straight northwest line through the entire village of Germantown, and the cross streets directly opposite each other and of the one width, which however, the intervening swamps and inconveniences but chiefly the growing diversity of opinion among the people, prevented."[5] Quite probably all these items—terrain, increase in number of settlers, and diversity of opinion—contributed to the decision to move the market place.

The change, although approved by the officials of the colony, was not made at once. In fact it was almost three years later that the Burgesses of the town agreed,

in February of 1704, to dispose of the reserved acre to Paul Wulff, selling him the three quarters of the acre that adjoined his house for £4 and exchanging the remaining quarter acre for two half-acre lots, one at either end of the town. Both of these lots were to be used as burial grounds, and so they remain today—the Lower Burying Ground at Logan Street; the Upper Burying Ground, just above Washington Lane. The £4 was then used to purchase a half acre of ground from James Delaplaine on the east side of the Road at the southeast corner of Lot No. 10 towards Bristol, the present Market Square.

Whether the move was made in the interest of obtaining a more central location for the market, as indeed it did; or because of the advantage of having the town common and market at a point where a cross street opened the way to Townsend's mill and Bristol Township on the east[6], as well as to Robeson's mill and the ferry to Merion on the west; or because Delaplaine, thinking it an advantage to have his lands face the "Green," persuaded the Burgesses to give the town a new focal point, it is impossible to say. By this time, some twenty years after the town's founding, traffic patterns would have been established and the most suitable position for a market could be determined with more certainty than was possible immediately after the borough was chartered.

On this newly-acquired half acre, known then and for many years thereafter as the "Green" or "common," the General Court arranged to have a prison, stocks and a pound erected. These structures were financed by the Corporation[7] and had a common disciplinary purpose—the prison and stocks for unruly residents, the pound for straying, hence unruly, animals. James Delaplaine and Herman von Bon[8] were entrusted with providing the stocks and prison and were paid wages of 3/6 per day. Each man was to "board himself" but each would receive a bonus of two quarts of rum for his labor. William Dewees was ordered to construct the pound out of "good wood" at the same time.[9] All three structures, pound, prison and stocks, were at the southeast end of the common. No provision was made for a market house, however, and apparently, the weekly market was kept in the street as formerly. Its location was changed but not its mode of operation.

Reference has been made to the "Burgesses," to the "Court" and to the "Corporation," using all three interchangeably. In fact the government of Germantown had been entrusted by the Proprietor's charter to a bailiff, four burgesses, and six committeemen. All together they constituted the General Court of the Corporation. They were empowered to make laws, impose fines, and elect new officials; in fine, they had a monopoly of government. The record of their activity is preserved in The General Court Book of the Corporation of Germantown.[10] Considering the broad powers granted the borough, it is not surprising that its officers were soon at odds with the provincial government and on January 11, 1707, George Lowther, the Queen's Attorney, disbanded the General Court. Germantown, having been reduced from the lofty status of independent borough, was now merely one of the townships of Philadelphia County.

The puzzle of just how and by whom Germantown was governed in the years between 1707 and the recreation of the borough in 1844 has never been completely solved. No records of the extent and variety of those to be found for the independent districts of Southwark or the Northern Liberties have been discovered for Germantown. In fact, all the evidence so far found suggests that Germantown may have managed to exist without much of any formal organization—trusting the sense of community responsibility evidenced by some of her residents to carry the community along with, now and again, the aid and comfort of the colony and, later, the state of Pennsylvania; the Commissioners of Philadelphia County; the judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions, also of Philadelphia County; and the justices of the peace they appointed. Strangers' guides and city directories list officers for the city of Philadelphia, and for the Northern Liberties, Spring Garden, Kensington, Southwark, and Moyamensing, but none for Germantown.[11] Moreover, when Germantown invited Congress to consider their "Village" as the permanent home of the United States government, as they did on two occasions, the invitation is recorded as coming from the "Inhabitants" or the "People" of "Germantown in Pennsylvania," not from any governing body thereof. The first memorial, dated September 4, 1783, was signed by more than four hundred and sixty men, a list including quite literally almost every householder in the township.[12] The second one, a follow-up petition dated October 1, 1787, was signed by a smaller group of the "movers and shakers" of the little town. Among them were the principal residents of the Market Square: Ashmeads, Bringhursts, Bensells and Joseph Ferree.[13]

The arguments offered to induce Congress to consider making Germantown its permanent home included the usual references to "salubrious Air," and "excellent Water" and added to these the convenience of a "plentiful Market" and the possibility of temporary quarters in the Academy as well as the use of a "large and commodious Dwelling House" on a "contiguous" lot, presumably, for the President's house.[14] The memorialists also noted the availability of "several very decent, and some not inelegant Dwelling Houses" in which Congressional families could be accommodated. Both memorials were read, but there is nothing to suggest that either was given much consideration, more's the pity.

With the reduction of Germantown from chartered borough to township, information on the activities of the little community ceases almost completely. For the balance of the eighteenth century, the advertisements of land or houses for sale, of meetings to be held, of schools in operation, of various skills for hire constitute the best indication of what was going on. Where the

affairs of the township impinged on those of the colony; the records in the Pennsylvania Archives and in the Land Office let in a little light.

The Land Office, for example, provides the next officially recorded activity on the Green. In 1740, Benjamin Eastburn, Surveyor General of the Province of Pennsylvania, resurveyed the half acre of land "of the Germantown Market Place" and drew a plan thereof which was agreed to by sixteen residents of the township.[14a] These included James Delaplaine, George Bensell, George Bringhurst, John Ashmead and Christopher Meng, all of whom owned property adjacent to the Market Square. Eastburn's survey was made preparatory to the erection of a markethouse on the Common. This was built the next year, 1741, according to Keyser, Hocker, Jenkins and other twentieth century historians.[15] No documentary record has yet been found to substantiate this statement, or to provide information on the financing, the design, the builder, or the administration of the markets held therein. Advertisements in the *Pennsylvania Gazette,* for May 2, 1745, and in the *American Weekly Mercury* for May 9 and 16, 1745, specifically mention "the Market House,"[16] however, clearly indicating that it had been built before that date, and archaeological evidence uncovered during the summer of 1965 supports the graphic record as regards the location and design of the market. Beyond that the record, as opposed to tradition, has vanished. Tradition, for example, reports that the log prison was sold to Adam Hoogermood, who moved it down the Road to his property at about the present Armat Street, where it was used as a dwelling until 1857.[17] On the fate of the stocks and the pound even tradition is silent.

Drawings by Bretton, Richard and others show that the market house was indentical in design and material of construction to those on High and South Second Streets in Philadelphia.[17a] The market was open at the sides in the European manner; and a series of brick piers supported a gable roof with overhanging eaves that protected buyers and sellers from the weather. A center aisle and possibly a cross aisle facilitated the movement of the shoppers from stall to stall.

The market house was situated at the northwest end of the Green immediately south of Delaplaine's property and across the road from George Bensell's. This location inevitably raises the question of the means used to finance the building of the market. Were public or private funds employed? If the Philadelphia practice was followed, one or two men with property in the area would probably have offered to erect the market and in return for the money spent would have been allowed to pocket the profits from the rental of the stalls for a specified period.[18] One may guess, from the location of the market at the northwest end of the Green, that either James Delaplaine or George Bensell, or both, would have been the men behind such a project. In the absence of any definite evidence, however, such a theory remains little more than idle speculation.

It is also permissible to wonder whether the market house was ever very much used. Newspaper advertisements mention it as a point of reference when a house or other piece of property in the area was offered for sale.[19] Of the market *per se,* little was said. Travelers who commented favorably on the Philadelphia markets are silent on the subject of Germantown's. That indefatigable diarist, Elizabeth Drinker, spent weeks in the summer of 1793 in one of the Bensell houses diagonally across the Germantown Road from the market house but never mentions it. In fact, the nearest thing to a compliment that I have found is the following phrase from the 1787 proposal to seat Congress permanently in Germantown which makes note that the "Most Kinds of necessary Provision may be procured with ease and cheapness" there.[20] And, since these memorialists were trying to "sell" their town to Congress, their comment is somewhat suspect. Perhaps most significant of all is the fact that the Germantowners never found it necessary to increase the size of their market house, although they did put a new roof on it in 1793. This is the more remarkable in view of the town's steady increase in population. (During the period from 1745 when it was built and 1810 the "New Market" on South Second Street in Philadelphia was enlarged to more than four times its original size.)[21]

Was this merely another bit of evidence of the rural condition of Germantown? Did the fact that all the houses had sufficient ground for kitchen gardens make a formally organized market less necessary than it was in urban Philadelphia? Or did the farmers and butchers ignore the amenities offered by the market house, preferring the old system of a street market? Certainly this would have been less costly than renting a fixed stall in the market house. Two items lend support to the notion that the market house was little used, at least by 1800: one, the introduction of hay scales into the market house early in the nineteenth century; the other, the failure of the Bull Market.

To consider the matter of the hay scales first: surely Thomas Armat would not have proposed placing scales in the market house if it were being used as originally intended by vendors of meat, vegetables, butter and eggs. The two uses were clearly incompatible. Horses and a wagon load of hay would leave no room in the small structure for the display of produce. Bretton's picture clearly shows this.[21a] One must conclude either that the weighing of hay was more important to the community than the maintenance of a market, or that the hay scales were placed in the market house largely because that structure was unused and therefore available. Moreover, the Town Council's proposal in 1848 to demolish the market occasioned no outcry. Not one person seems to have written in angry protest to the *Germantown Telegraph* to denounce the suggestion. In fact, several years earlier, in 1830 and again in 1837, the attention of the townspeople had been called to the "decaying" condition of the market and suggesting that it be demolished. In spite of the apparent lack of in-

terest in the ancient building, the market survived until 1850. In August of that year, the Germantown Council directed "the Committee on Markets" to have the "old Market-house on Market Square taken down, and the materials sold." On October 9, the Committee reported that the sale of these had brought in $30.00.[22]

A few years later, after Germantown had been incorporated into the City of Philadelphia, an ordinance was passed by the Common Council of the consolidated city designating a place where street markets might be held along Germantown Road between Mill and Center (Rittenhouse) streets. A note appended to this ordinance commenting on the need for such a market concluded: "the absence of it has entailed a great inconvenience upon the citizens, many of whom have been compelled to do their marketing in the city." Victuallers, farmers, truckers and gardeners were invited to bring their produce to Germantown and assured that their wares "will find a ready sale and good prices" and they themselves "a cordial welcome."[23]

Four years later the Bull Market was built, possibly to take care of the need mentioned in the *Telegraph* and to give Germantown a more up-to-date way of provisioning its kitchens. Street markets were losing ground to the newer notion of an enclosed market and the incorporators of the Bull Market doubtless thought that their community was sufficiently large and sophisticated to enjoy the more comfortable shopping that a market building would provide. The Bull Market offered forty-six stalls for butchers, eight for truckers, twenty-six for farmers, one for flowers, and one for fish, as well as a shed where horses and wagons could wait. Accustomed to the open-air street markets, the Germantown victuallers left the Bull Market's stalls unoccupied and the market was closed in 1864. A similar venture at the northwest corner of Chelten Avenue and the Germantown Road, proposed in 1852, was intended to combine a market on the street level with a room for billiards, chess and similar games on the second floor, and one for concerts and balls on the third. This project also failed.[24]

Although the market house disappeared from the Square by 1850, the vicinity of the Square remained a shopping center for Germantown as several old drawings and photographs show. Both the Bensell house at the northwest corner of School House Lane and the Delaplaine house across the way were retail grocery stores by the time of the Civil War.[25] The changing character of the Square is indicated by the subsequent acquisition of these properties by major Germantown institutions: the Bensell house by the Bank of Germantown and the Delaplaine house by the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. With this development, the Market Square ceased to perform the function from which it derived its name.

Two additional objects occupied part of the Market Square in the early nineteenth century. The more important of these was the firehouse which stood next to the market. Seen in all the views of the Square, the small wooden structure with its belfry and weathervane was built in 1814 to house the engine of the Middle Ward Fire Company,[26] organized in 1764 to protect the central part of Germantown, i.e., the Middle Ward, from fire losses. This company and its successor, the Fellowship Fire Company, kept an engine in the Square until 1850. Accustomed as we are to the behemoths operated by twentieth-century fire departments, the Market Square fire house, described in 1850 as "a good and substantial frame building 16 feet by 11 feet by 2 inches, built of the best material, and best workmanship," seems too tiny for any useful purpose.[27] It was, however, entirely adequate for the Shag Rag and its immediate successors. In placing firehouse and market in close proximity on the Green, the citizens of Germantown again followed a Philadelphia precedent, just as they had in the design of their market house. (Room for fire-fighting equipment was made at both the Pine and South street ends of the New Market, for example.)

The other object on the Green of which there is record is a well. Written into the deed when John Fromberger sold part of his property to James Stokes, January 22, 1799, was the specific right to use "the pump and water well in the Square adjoining."[28] This constitutes the only reference so far found to this well which is now quite likely hidden under the roadway on the east side of the Square.

For the first one hundred and fifty years of its existence, the Market Square was properly designated locally as the "Green" or the "Common" or the "Market Place." It was an open space where people gathered on private business or public occasions. It was also a parade ground where the county militia were "exercised"[29] and an artillery park when the British occupied the town. Around the Square were the houses of the men of affairs—Bringhursts, Ashmeads, Delaplaines, Bensells—and at the center of the east side, situated so that the Common served as a barrier between it and the noisy traffic of the Germantown Road, stood the church. Thus in Germantown a village plan of ancient and almost universal character was continued.

Apparently it was not until the 1830's that anyone thought of turning the Common into an attractive, landscaped square. Samuel B. Morris, perhaps tired of seeing an unkempt, muddy common when he looked out of his parlor window from 5442 Germantown Road, was instrumental in having grass and trees planted and in having posts set up at the corner to keep the hucksters' wagons from churning up the newly-won greensward.[30] The townspeople, however, seem not to have shared his concern, for within a dozen years or so, proposals to cover a good part of the Square with a building to house a town hall and "lock-up" were seriously entertained.

In order to get on with this scheme, permission was obtained from the Pennsylvania Assembly to demolish the old and "seldom used" market. The title of the newly-constituted borough to the Market Square was

reviewed and proposals for opening new streets, one thirty feet wide on the northwest side of the Square and one twenty-eight feet, ten inches wide on the east side, were agreed to. A private company had been organized in 1846 to finance the building of a town hall, four stories high but not enough people were found willing to purchase shares to get the scheme off the ground. The next year, 1847, the Borough Council appointed a committee to get the streets opened and build a three-story hall. Again public opinion failed to support the program—the plans were said to be too extravagant—and this project, too, was abandoned.[30a] The streets on the northwest and on the east sides were opened, however, thus reducing the size of the Square to a not inconsiderable degree.

Talk about a town hall agitated the borough again in 1852, but once again nothing came of it. Not until 1854, when consolidation with the City of Philadelphia was in sight, did the citizens take action to implement their talk about the need for a town hall. Perhaps in response to the prodding of the *Germantown Telegraph,* the councillors abandoned the idea of building on the Square and purchased a site for the town hall at the present Harvey Street and engaged Nicholas LeBrun to design their building.[31]

Although saved from being engulfed by a building, the Market Square did not remain wholly free of further encroachment. A monument to the Germantown men who had served in the Civil War was erected there in 1883 and in 1901, as part of a city beautification program, the old iron railings were replaced by stone copings. Sidewalks, one at the north and one at the south end of the Square, further reduced the green space.[32] This, constituted the last major alteration to the Square itself. It might be noted here that, although no handsomer than such things usually are, the Civil War monument has a place in the Square for it serves to indicate the continuing vitality of the old market place which, in spite of Germantown's spectacular growth and the removal of the market from the Square, remains the hub of community activity.

The land surrounding the Market Square was originally contained in the lots numbered eight, nine and ten of the "town lots toward Schuylkill" and in the lots numbered nine and ten of the "town lots toward Bristol." The lots on the west side of the Road were surveyed to Jacob Shoemaker (Lot No. 8), Jacob Isaac van Bebber and Jacob Tellner (Lot No. 9), and Heivert Pappen (Lot No. 10). Those on the east side, to Walter Simons (Lot No. 9), Dirck op den Kolke and Wiggard Levering (Lot No. 10). By 1714, the Friends had acquired Shoemaker's lot and built a meetinghouse on it. John Jarrett purchased Van Bebber's and Tellner's lands in 1710/11; and Heivert Papen's heirs sold his acreage to Griffith Jones in 1720. Across the Road, James Delaplaine had bought up Dirck op den Kolke and Wiggard Levering's share by 1692. Walter Simons continued in possession of Lot No. 9 until his death in 1733. In spite of these changes in ownership of these lots, there was little apparent disposition to break up the large parcels by selling off small, urban size pieces thereof for the first thirty years or so of the town's existence.[33]

When the narrower lots characteristic of Philadelphia urban development did appear in Germantown, they emerged first on the west side of the Road. Jarrett sold the northern part of his lot, the ground on which the Germantown Savings Bank now stands, to John Ashmead in 1711/12. In 1763, Ashmead sold the corner lot to Dr. Charles Bensell. (Charles Bensell, Jr., built on it in 1799 the handsome house shown in Joseph Planell's drawing.[33a]) The Ashmead's kept 5452 and 5454 for their own use until the latter part of the nineteenth century when the Saving Bank bought both from the estate of George Ashmead. Meanwhile, Jarrett sold the middle section of his property, comprising the present 5442-5450, to George Bringhurst, sadler, in 1726. The Bringhursts kept in their own hands the property at 5448 until 1833, but sold the piece of ground to the north (No. 5450) to Robert Waln, Philadelphia merchant, in 1762. (Thomas Morgan, Waln's son-in-law and a merchant like Waln, acquired the lot in 1792. When he sold to Thomas Armat in 1806, the present house was standing thereon.) Bringhurst further subdivided the property he had purchased from Jarrett by selling a lot a hundred feet wide along the Main Street to David Deshler, shopkeeper, in 1751. (When Deshler's executors sold his property to Isaac Franks, broker, in 1792, they transferred the lot and the house now standing upon it.) Jarrett continued to dispose of his holdings by selling the southern moiety, between Bringhursts' purchase and the Friends Meetinghouse lot (the present 5430-5434), to Henry Pastorius, yeoman. The upper half of this, adjacent to Bringhurst's land and with a forty-foot frontage on the Road, was acquired by Christopher Meng, shopkeeper, in 1742. In 1749, Meng bought the lower half, also, forty feet along the Road, from the Pastorius heirs. Some thirty years later, Meng, now signing himself Christopher Meng, gentleman, sold both parcels to George Righter (Riter or Reiter). In 1796, Righter's heirs sold house and lot (eighty feet on the Main Street) to John Ashmead, coachmaker. Ashmead opened the fifteen foot cartway leading to the rear of his property and built the house on the southern part of his lot (the present 5430). Both houses eventually landed in the hands of the Morrises—5434 being sold in 1853 to Elliston P. Morris, and 5430 went to the same family in 1902. (Although the real estate records show a multiplicity of transfers of houses and lots on the west side of the Market Square, the principal owners of the land in this area have been Ashmeads, Bringhursts and Morrises.)[34]

The east side of the Square, Lots No. 9 and 10, fared rather differently. James Delaplaine purchased Dirck op den Kolke's share of Lot No. 10 in 1691 and added Wiggard Levering's portion the following year, 1692. Delaplaine continued to hold all the land on the east

side of the Square from Church Lane north to and including the lot on the northeast corner of the Square until 1723. Then he sold the southern part to John Midwinter, gardener. In 1732, the "High Dutch Reformed Congregation" purchased from Henry Frederick, carpenter, some of the land which he had acquired earlier (1727) from Midwinter and on it built the first of the Market Square church buildings. This building was enlarged in 1762 and replaced by a more up-to-date structure in 1838-40. Shortly thereafter, theological differences between the congregation and the Reformed Church led the Market Square church to dissolve its connection with the Synod of the Reformed Church and apply for admission to the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Their application was accepted and in July, 1856, the church was re-organized as the Market Square Presbyterian Church. Churches and their congregations are as susceptible as anyone to changing architectural styles and by the 1880's the parsonage (5515) which the Trustees had acquired from the Fromberger heirs in 1807 seemed hopelessly old fashioned. It was torn down in 1881 and replaced by the present building, designed by James H. Windrim. Six years later, in 1887, the corner stone of the present church was laid, the architect, George T. Pierson.[35]

Delaplaine's own house was on the northeast corner of the Market Square and the Germantown Road. In 1775, Joseph Ferree of Lancaster fell heir to it through his wife's dowery rights and in 1795 John Fromberger purchased it together with most of the other property which Delaplaine had once owned. In 1799, Fromberger began to dispose of his holdings. He sold the old Delaplaine house to James Stokes in that year; and in 1805 the southernmost of the new houses he had built at the southeast corner of the Square to the First Bank of the United States. When Fromberger died in 1807, Stokes purchased the remaining parcels of his property except for the house at 5515 sold to the Church and for the messuage owned by the Bank. This latter fell into Stokes's hands in 1813 when the Bank's affairs were wound up.[36]

Walter Simons, yeoman, held on to his grant of Lot No. 9 "toward Bristol" so long as he lived. His will, dated, 1733, authorized the sale of this property and Paulus Kripner, Philadelphia shopkeeper, bought up Simons' grant in 1736. Kripner proceeded to divide it into twenty-one lots, each about twenty feet front (proper Philadelphia size). Ten of these he sold in 1745 to another Philadelphia shopkeeper, Henry Van Aken. Kripner and Van Aken evidently were of the opinion that the time had come for Germantown to develop a more citified pattern and, obviously, the Market Square, the center of the town's activity, was the spot to begin. Their scheme may have been devised to take advantage of the recently built market house since the lots were described in an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of August 21, 1746, as "fronting along the market place" and "very convenient for shopkeepers or tradesmen." Neither Kripner nor Van Aken were successful in disposing of their land and their scheme must be considered a failure. Possibly it was premature, possibly the Philadelphians who were beginning to settle in Germantown for the summer did not think that narrow lots with the consequent limitations imposed on the house design, provided the rural atmosphere they were traveling over six miles of atrocious roads to reach. In any event, the property remained unsold and in 1800 James Stokes bought the entire twenty-one lots from the heirs of both men. This purchase gave Stokes title to the east and south sides of the Square, except for the church properties. Through the first hundred and fifty years of Germantown's existence, therefore, this land was usually in the hands of one man—first James Delaplaine, then John Fromberger, and finally, James Stokes.[37]

Throughout the eighteenth century the Market Square could quite properly be designated the heart of Germantown. Here was not only the market house, symbolic of commercial activity, but here also lived the men who controlled the town's destiny. Tax records and extant estate inventories document the status of these men.[38] All owned land and at least one dwelling house, quite frequently they possessed property in the Northern Liberties or Roxborough as well. Horses, cows, a "riding chair," and some "plate" were usually included among the taxable items noted by the assessors.[39] The size of the houses around the Square and the elegance of their furnishings are attested by Dr. Bensell's advertisement (in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of March 10, 1779), for goods taken away from his house, presumably during the British occupation. Among these were "six history pieces of painting, two small family portraits and four maps; one pair small globes, with green cases; a house organ, forte piano and violin; . . . all the utensils belonging to the Laboratory; . . . the whole medical shop furniture, prepared medicines, drugs, &c, . . . between six and seven hundred volumes of books . . . being a collection of physical and historical authors, &c." Fine carved mahogany and walnut furniture, looking glasses, linen, wearing apparel and roots from the flower garden were also taken. No wonder that Dr. Bensell concluded his enumeration with the hope that "such wicked practices may be punished for the present and prevented in future."[40]

The uses to which the buildings surrounding the Square were put gradually changed. Each had been planned and built as a private residence. Whatever public business was transacted there was carried on because the owner was concerned with the matter, as, for example, when the directors of the Library Company of Germantown met at Delaplaine's house or the board of the Perkiomen Turnpike Company met at Fromberger's.[41] Commerce as such, and distinct from the operation of the local market, found its way into the Square during the Yellow Fever epidemics of the 1790's. The First Bank of the United States found a

temporary home in one of the Bensell houses, and the officers of this institution were followed to Germantown by shopkeepers and others who found a deserted city no place to carry on their business. When the fever left the city, the Philadelphians left Germantown, but the notion of the Square as a commercial center remained. When the Bank of Germantown was chartered in 1814, it set up its offices in the same Bensell house that had formerly served the Bank of the United States.[42] A decade or two later, the two oldest houses on the Square, the Delaplaine house (No. 5521) and the Bensell house (No. 5500) became grocery stores, and by mid-century retail establishments began to cluster at the southern end of the Square. In the 1860's the Bank replaced the Bensell properties at 5500 and 5504 Main Street with a new building especially designed for banking purposes. Before many more years had elapsed, the Germantown Savings Bank (organized in 1854) bought the handsome house built in 1799 by Dr. Charles Bensell, Jr., and erected a new structure to house their operations on this site. In 1885, the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Germantown demolished the old Delaplaine house and established themselves on the Square in a modish new brick building.[43] Corporate influence was taking the place of personal influence but the center of power remained where it always had been—in the Market Square.

In recognition of this, the old buildings that have graced the Square for more than two hundred years should be restored—accurately, not fancifully, and a suitable use should be found for each one so that each may continue to serve the community. If the Market Square is to remain the center and symbol of a vital Germantown, all artificiality must be eschewed in planning its renewal. The Square has too much solid worth to be turned into something pretty but phony, something a Helen Hokinson clubwoman could exclaim over. Such an approach would serve neither history nor Germantown in the long run.

FOOTNOTES

1. Grund und Lager Buch, Eng. trans. by M. D. Learned. (HSP)
2. Naaman H. Keyser, *History of Old Germantown,* p. 44; Grund und Lager Buch
3. Logan Papers, III, 17 (HSP)
4. *Ibid.*, 16, 17
5. Grund und Lager Buch, see Pastorius' introductory notes
6. Mill Street was so called in deed, May 6, 1691, from Op den Kolke to Delaplaine (Brief of title, PHC files)
7. Keyser, p. 44
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*
10. This manuscript is in HSP. For a brief account of the government of Germantown, see *Historic Germantown,* pp. 6-7
11. See for example, *Philadelphia in 1830-31 . . . a Complete Guide for Strangers;* and McElroy's *Philadelphia Directory for the Year of 1850,* pp. 494-495
12. There were 530 taxables in the township in 1775. The memorial is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, NAMP, microcopy 247, Roll 60, p. 117-121
13. *Ibid.*, 137-139. A few days before this petition was sent to Congress, on September 21, there was a meeting "of a respectable number of the citizens of Germantown, Dr. Charles Bensell in the chair," to hear the newly drafted constitution of the United States read. The meeting went on record as "highly" approving the document and resolved to entreat the Pennsylvania Assembly to "adopt the measure." (*Pennsylvania Packet,* Sept. 22, 1787) Possibly another outcome of this meeting was the second proposal to Congress mentioned above.
14. Papers of the Continental Congress, NAMP, Roll 60, 137
15. Keyser, p. 322
16. Microfilm copies of both newspapers are in the HSP
17. Edward W. Hocker, *Germantown, 1683-1933,* p. 78

17a. See Plates No. 23-25

18. M. B. Tinkcom, "The New Market in Second Street," PMHB, vol.
19. See transcripts of newspaper advertisements in "Newspaper Items Relating to Germantown . . . compiled from Philadelphia Newspapers, 1721-1807" Compiled for C. F. Jenkins. Copies in HSP and GHS.
20. Papers of the Continental Congress, NAMP, Roll 60, 137-38
21. For reference to the new roof, see undated newspaper clipping in GHS; for New Market, see Tinkcom, *op. cit.*

21a. Plate 23

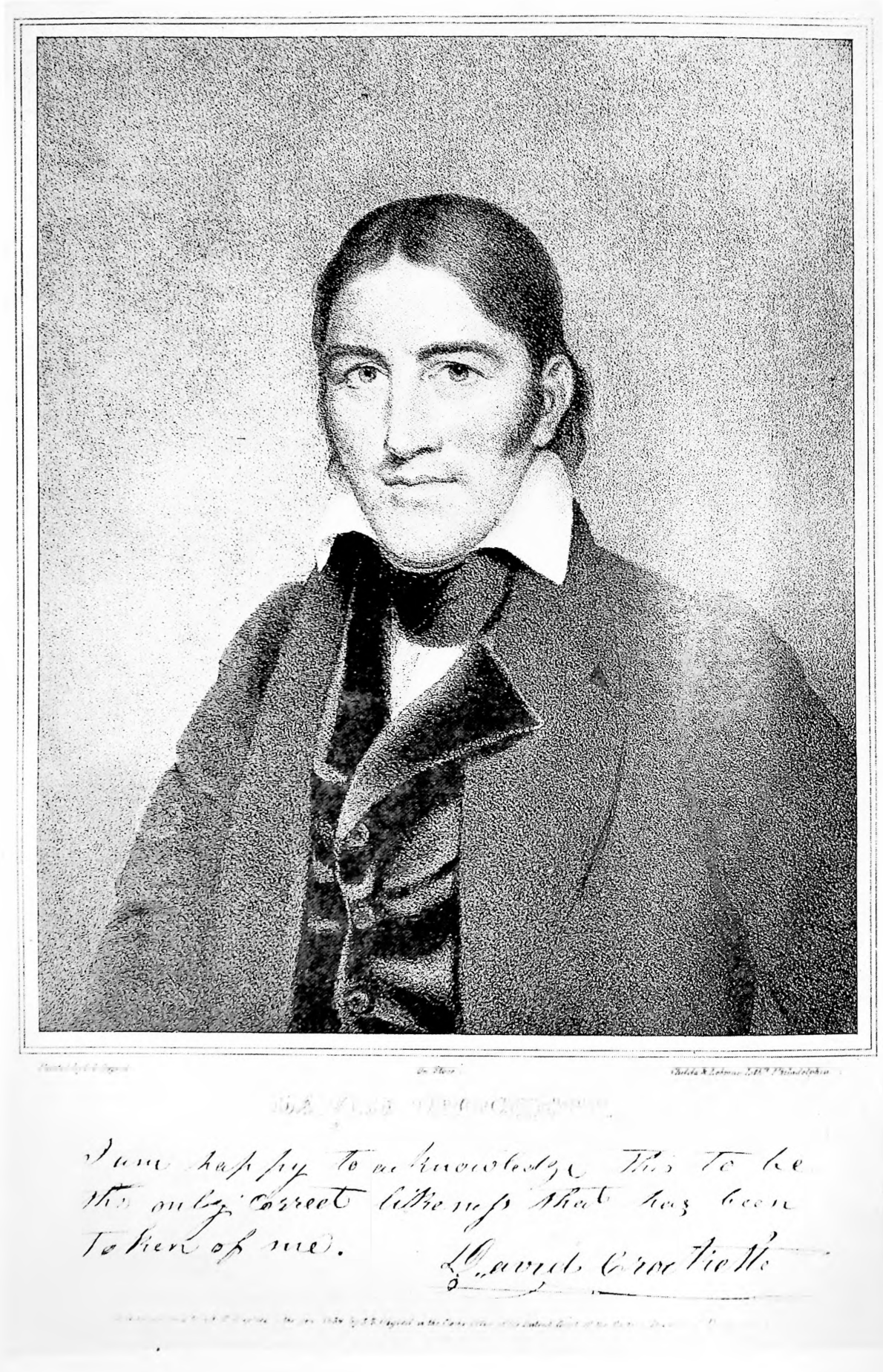
22. *Germantown Telegraph,* Aug. 14, and Oct. 9, 1850
23. *Ibid.*, issues for Jan. 24, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and 28, 1855
24. *Ibid.*, Sept. 29, 1852
25. *Ibid.*, Jan. 8, 1840; and Plates 1, 8, 9, 11
26. See Plate No. 23 (Date is distinct in color reproduction in *101 Masterpieces of American Primitive Painting from the Collection of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch,* Plate 44
27. Notice of public sale of this building in *Germantown Telegraph,* Nov. 6, 1850
28. Brief of title in PHC files
29. *Pennsylvania Gazette,* May 30, 1756
30. E. P. Morris, "Memories of Old Germantown," in *Germantown Historical Miscellany,* GHS

30a. See Minutes of the Council of the Borough of Germantown for 1848, 1852, 1854; and the *Telegraph* for corresponding years.

31. *Ibid.*
32. *Ibid.*
33. See briefs of title in PHC files

33a. Plate 18.

34. See PHC files
35. *Ibid.*
36. *Ibid.*
37. *Ibid.*; see also Jenkins, "Newspaper Items," p. 12
38. Tax Duplicates are in the Department of Archives, City of Philadelphia; transcripts of pertinent material in PHC; wills and inventories are in Recorder of Wills office, City Hall Annex, transcripts of useful ones in PHC. See for example, inventories of George Bringhurst, 1787, and of George Righter, 1794.
39. Tax Duplicates for 1780, transcripts in PHC
40. Jenkins, "Newspaper Items," p. 103-104
41. For Library Company meeting, see *Pennsylvania Gazette,* Apr. 13, 1758; for the Turnpike Company, *U. S. Gazette,* Apr. 14, 1803, Oct. 20, 1804
42. Plate
43. Plate 12 shows all three institutions.



A Picture of Davey Crockett Presented Recently to The Germantown Historical Society

TWO POEMS

By Elizabeth Reeves Humphreys

A SINGER STROLLS THROUGH A VILLAGE

Seemingly born of the sunset
And the tones of a variant sea,
Born of the incense of gardens
A voice air-drifted to me.

At first it was faint in the distance,
A glorious tenor singing
In the lilting joy of a love-song
Pure as a skylark winging.

Robins joined the singer
As slowly he passed by
While the ocean played its fugue
And nestlings ceased to cry.

Oh, the beauty of that voice,
Humming as he strolled
And giving me forever
This memory to infold.

SINCE THE FIRST WAVE CURLED

Since the first red dawn
When the first wave curled
Against the silent earth
The sea has taken from it—
Taken from the rock
Where it is hurled
And from the sandy shore
More and more.

Yet the sea has given too
In oddments from its depths,
In shell-homes of its creatures
Of such delicacy and hue
They seem a tender thought,
And so pure in symmetry
We see the touch of divinity.

It gives with lavish hand
Schools of living fish
Tossing on the sand
Autumn's silvered whitings,
And the land gives of itself
Obeying the eternal law
By which each one must live,
Give and receive, receive and give.

JOHN BECHTEL

By JOHN W. JORDAN

John Bechtel lived in Germantown from 1726 to 1755. In 1742 he built the house that is now the costume museum of the Germantown Historical Society. The following is part of a brochure written by John W. Jordan in 1895. Two hundred copies were printed "for Ethan Allen Weaver."

THE MORAL and religious, as well as the social and political, condition of the Province of Pennsylvania about the year 1740 was in many respects remarkable, for such a mixture of nationalities and languages, such a medly of opinions and views, so freely maintained and as freely proclaimed, could not be found elsewhere in the Provinces. The Germans, who probably formed one-third of the population, had been for some years destitute of a settled ministry, in consequence of which many of them became divided into numerous sects, or had grown indifferent to all forms of religion. There were others, however, men like John Bechtel, Henry Antes, John Adam Gruber, and Christopher Wiegner, who, recognizing this deplorable state of affairs, desired to effect a change. They frequently met for consultation at the house of John Bechtel, in Germantown, and, the project which had been always advocated by Antes—a union of all German sects and denominations—finally prevailed. On December 26, 1741, he issued a circular inviting representatives to attend a general meeting at Germantown, "not for the purpose of disputing, but in order to treat peaceably concerning the most important articles of faith, and to ascertain how far they might agree on the most essential points, for the purpose of promoting mutual love and forebearance." A number of delegates assembled on January 12, 1742, at the house of Theobald Endt, situated on the west side of Main Street, near Queen Lane (between the Howell house and the Bechtel house), where was organized the first of the so-called "Pennsylvania Synods." During the ensuing ten months seven of these synods were held at different places, to which came delegates representing the Lutheran and German Reformed churches, Moravians, Tunkers, Schwenkfelders, Mennonites, Sabbatarians, Separatists, and Hermits. It is difficult to determine whether the original purpose of those who convened these synods was always kept in view; but, so far as we are acquainted with the proceedings, they were not, and finally, through denominational jealousies, the project failed. Eventually, John Bechtel, Henry Antes, and others united with the Moravians, being attracted by the preaching of Count Zinzendorf and impressed by the unsectarian character of their labors in the Province. It was the activity and success of the Moravians which hastened the coming of Muhlenberg and Schlatter to care for the long-neglected members of their denominations.

John Bechtel was born October 3, 1690, at Weinheim in the Palatinate, to which town his parents fled when the French sacked and burnt Frankenthal, their native place. He was early sent to the parish school and also received a religious training, but he had the misfortune to lose his mother when he was nine years of age, and his father five years later. He was then sent to Heidelberg and apprenticed to a wood-turner, and after serving his time, as was then the custom, spent the first three years of a journeyman in travelling through Germany, working at his trade. In 1714 he returned to Heidelberg with the intention of making it his home, and the following year married; but in 1717 he removed to Frankenthal, where he carried on his trade. With his wife and three daughters, in 1726, he immigrated to Pennsylvania and settled in Germantown, where he resided for twenty years. His house and lot was located on Main Street, adjoining that of Theobald Endt, and was near the residence of John Stephen Benezet, a prominent merchant of Philadelphia, whose three daughters married Moravian clergymen.

Reared in the German Reformed Church, and being an earnest, pious man, two years after he settled in Germantown he began to hold religious meetings for his Reformed brethren in the town, and was instrumental in doing much good prior to the arrival of Schlatter and the organization of a synod. At first he kept these meetings in his own house, not only on Sundays, but every morning and evening on week days. The congregation which he gathered built a small church on Market Square, and in 1733 he was given a call as pastor, and a license to preach was sent to him from Heidelberg University. He was not ordained, however until April 18, 1742, and then by Bishop David Nitschmann, of the Moravian Church, in a session of the "Fifth Pennsylvania Synod," to labor among his Reformed brethren who were connected with the Synod. Bechtel became acquainted with the Moravians through Bishop Spangenberg, whom he met, in 1738, at the house of Christopher Wiegner, on the Skippack, where he was sojourning after his return from Georgia. At Wiegner's the "Associate Brethren of Skippack" met for worship, where Bechtel usually attended every four weeks. His daughter Margaret relates the meeting of her father with Count Zinzendorf:

"On his arrival at New York, the Count wrote to my father to meet him in Philadelphia. Through fear of

incurring the displeasure of such of his friends as had been prejudiced against the Count, he hesitated to comply with his request. I urged him to go, I gave him no rest, and as my verbal persuasions were of no avail, I ran to the pasture, caught his riding-horse and brought it saddled and bridled to the door. This appeal father could not resist, and from regard to me, he rode to town to see the remarkable man, who impressed me deeply when I saw him the next day at our house, and indelibly so, when not two weeks later I heard him for the first time proclaim the words of eternal life."

During the various visits of Zinzendorf to Germantown he frequently preached in Bechtel's church, December 30, 1741, being the date of his first appearance in an American pulpit. There were members of the congregation, however, who were not in sympathy with the movement in which their pastor was associated with Henry Antes and others, and who also looked with suspicion and distrust on his intimacy with Zinzendorf, which culminated in 1744, in his dismissal.

In January of 1746, John Peter Miller, Englebert Lock, Jean de Dier, Peter Hoffman, Anthony Gilbert, Cornelius Weygandt, Marcus Muenser, and Hans Gerster, on behalf of themselves and other residents of Germantown, applied to the Moravians at Bethlehem to open a boarding-school for their children, and to further this object John Bechtel offered his house and lot to the church, which they accepted. In September the school was opened, and the Rev. James Greening, of London, placed in charge. Boarding scholars were also admitted from Moravian congregations in other Provinces, and a limited number of day scholars were taken. The charge for tuition and board was six pounds per annum, but all laundry work for the pupils was to be done at the home of the parents! To aid in the maintenance of the school, contributions of money and provisions were solicited in the congregations, and parents were requested not to visit their children too often, as it was detrimental to discipline and interfered with their studies, and the indulgence in cakes and candy was considered prejudicial to good health. Among the pupils from Philadelphia were Nathaniel Evans, who became a clergyman of the Anglican Church and a poet of some merit, and Lazarus Stow, who during the Revolution was an officer in the Continental service, and whose father recast Independence bell for the State-House. In May of 1749 the school was discontinued and the pupils transferred to other institutions of the church.

When the Moravians accepted Bechtel's house and lot, he removed with his family to Bethlehem, where he was appointed one of the wardens, and continued to work at his old trade until increasing years forced him to relinquish it. During the French and Indian wars he was particularly active in providing for the relief of the large number of refugees who sought shelter in the town.

John Bechtel's reputation is not confined to his prominence in the religious movement among the Germans to which I have referred, but to his connection with that early era of Pennsylvania bibliography made famous through the imprints of Franklin, Bradford, and Saur. The need of a catechism for the use of all who were in union with the "Pennsylvania Synod" early became apparent, whereupon Zinzendorf and Bechtel, in March of 1742, began its compilation, based on the twelve articles adopted by the Bern Synod of 1532, in which a tendency towards Lutheranism is manifest, and by some was claimed to be in harmony with the doctrines of the Moravian Church. The manuscript was read in a session of the "Fifth Pennsylvania Synod," approved, and ordered to be printed. As the printing-office of Christopher Saur was the only one in the Province fully equipped with German type, the job was first offered to him, but declined through pique towards some of the members of the Synod, upon which it was given to Franklin. In Franklin's office at this date was John Henry Miller, an expert German printer (subsequently the proprietor and publisher of the *Staatsbote*), who had accompanied Zinzendorf to Pennsylvania, to whom was assigned the manuscript; but the office being without sufficient German letters, English had to be substituted in the publication. In a few weeks the first edition, a small 12mo of forty-two pages, was ready for distribution. The title reads:

> "Kurzer Catechismus vor etliche Gemeinen Jesu Aus der Reformirten Religion. In Pennsylvania, Die sich zum alten Berner Synod halten: Herausgegeben von Johannes Bechteln, Diener des Worts Gottes Philadelphia, Gedruckt bey Benjamin Franklin, 1742."

On the reverse of the title-page is the following advertisement:

Zu haben

"In *Philadelphia* bey Stephen Benezet,
"In *Germantown* bey Bechteln,
"Im *Falckner* Schwamm bey H. Antes,
"In *Oley* bey Johannes Leimbach dem
"Aeltern,
"In *Lancaster Town* bey Daniel Maquenet,
"In *Schippach* bey G. Merckeln,
"In *Socken* bey Jacob Bachman,
"In den *Forks* bey Eyseck."

An incident connected with a copy of this scarce imprint is of interest. When the Rev. Henry Harbaugh, D.D., was preparing his "Fathers of the German Reformed Church," his interest in the career of John Bechtel was so great as to induce the late Bishop Edmund de Schweinitz, S.T.D., of Bethlehem, to present the zealous author with a copy of the Catechism. Mr. Harbaugh loaned it to a friend, who loaned it to some one else, and this went on until it became lost. After a long and patient search, it was traced to that treasure-house of the world, the British Museum, and recovered.

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An English translation of the Catechism was prepared about the same time, and printed by Isaiah Warner. This second edition is a small 12mo of thirty-six pages, the title of which reads:

"A Short Catechism for some Congregations of Jesus Of the Reformed Religion In Pennsylvania, Who keep to the ancient Synod of Bern; Agreeable to The Doctrine Of the Moravian Church. First published In German, By John Bechtel, Minister of the Word of God. Philadelphia: Printed by Isaiah Warner, almost opposite to Charles Brockden's in Chestnut Street. MDCCXLII."

This edition contains no advertisement, but has additional matter under the following heading, pp. 34-36:

"To fill up a few vacant Pages, here are added two Abstracts, and one entire Hymn, from the Moravian Hymn Book."

Another edition (the third) was printed in Germany with the title-page and imprint of Franklin retained. It is a small 12mo of forty-four pages, and the copy in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania was formerly in use at New Herrnhut, a Moravian mission station in Greenland. The title-page reads:

"Kurzer Catechismus Vor etliche Gemeinen Jesu Aus der Reformirten Religion In Pennsylvania, Die sich zum alten Berner Synod halten: Herausgegeben von Johannes Bechteln, Dienern des Worts Gottes. Philadelphia: Gedruckt bey Benjamin Franklin, 1742."

During Zinzendorf's visitation to Pennsylvania he organized a mission among the Swedes settled along the Delaware, in West Jersey, and appointed two of his Moravian clergymen, who were graduates of the University of Upsala, to carry it on. One of their early converts was Olof Malander, who in 1737 came from Sweden with Dylander to take charge of a parochial school. In 1743, while employed in the printing-office of Benjamin Franklin, he prepared Bechtel's Catechism for publication in the Swedish language, and it was issued the same year from that office. It is a 12mo of thirty-five pages, and the title-page of this the fourth edition, reads:

"En kort Catechismus For nagra Pesu Foersamlinger Utaf then Reformerta Religionen Uti Pennsylvania, Som halla sig til thet Berniska Synodo; Hwilket ar Engligit med Larone uti then Maehriska Kyrkian. Forst utgiswen i thet Tyska Spraket Af Johanne Bechtel, Guds Ords Tienare. Philadelphia: Tryckt hos Benjamin Franklin, Aohr 1743."

The advertisement in the first and third editions are omitted in this edition.

This is the rarest of all the editions of the catechism, two copies of which only are known to us, one in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the other in the Royal Library at Stockholm.

John Bechtel was the compiler of one other work, a reprint of which is given in *Fresenius's Nachrichten*, Vol. III. p. 740 *et seq.*, with the following title:

"Abermaliger Vorschlag deselben wegen gedachter

Schule, im Johannes Bechtel. Philadelphia, 1742."

John Bechtel was married February 15, 1715, to Maria Appolonia Marret, who was born May 14, 1691, at Heidelberg, to which city her parents fled from Metz, owing to the persecutions of the Protestants. After a married life of forty-three years, she died at Bethlehem, February 7, 1758, five daughters surviving her.

Mary Agneta Bechtel was born at Franckenthal, Germany, September 19, 1719, and was married at Germantown, July 5, 1739, to Cornelius Weygandt. With her family she removed, in 1755, to what is now called "Fountain Hill," South Bethlehem, and in 1760 to Forks Township, Northampton County, where her husband had purchased a tract of land on the Bushkill Creek, from John Lefevre, adjoining that of the Delaware chieftain Tatamy. Here she died, May 28, 1789, and was buried in the cemetery of the Moravian congregation at Schoeneck, of which she was one of the first members. Her husband, a son of Balthsar and Ottelia (Dimler) Weygandt, was born March 6, 1713, at Osthofen, in the Palatinate, and was a member of the Lutheran Church. He came to Pennsylvania on the ship "Harle," from Rotterdam, in 1736, and settled in Germantown. In addition to several minor offices which he held, he was from May 30 to November 11, 1776, a member of the Committee of Observation and Committee of Correspondence of Northampton County. He died October 1, 1799, and was buried at Schoeneck.

Ann Margaret Bechtel was born at Franckenthal, September 13, 1721, and in 1742 was married by Count Zinzendorf to the Rev. Gottlob Buettner. She accompanied her husband to the Moravian mission among the Indians of New York and Connecticut, where he died in 1745 at Shecomeco. She married, second, the Rev. John G. Youngman, a native of the Palatinate, and entered with him on a long and varied career in the mission service of the church, principally among the Indians. She has the reputation of being proficient in both the Delaware and Mohican dialects.

Mary Susan Bechtel was born at Franckenthal, and in May of 1748 was married to the Rev. John Levering, a grandson of Gerhard Levering, one of the founders of Roxborough, Philadelphia. Her husband died while they were employed in the negro mission on the island of Jamaica, West Indies. The Rt. Rev. J. Mortimer Levering, of Bethlehem is a descendant. In 1768 she was married to John Merck, of Bethlehem.

Maria Appollonia Bechtel, born at Germantown, June 12, 1733, was married to Christian Weber, of Bethlehem, and died December 27, 1808. There was another daughter concerning whom we know nothing.

John Bechtel, after a long and active life, in April of 1777 died at Bethlehem, highly respected by his brethren.

For further information on John Bechtel see:

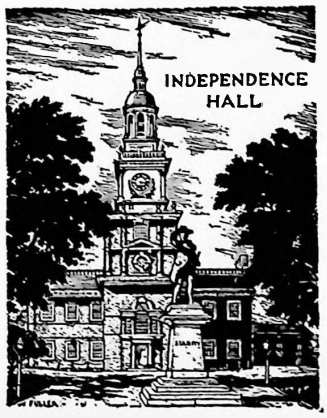
Cornelius Weygandt, "Of Bechtels and Weygandts," *Germantowne Crier*, September, 1951.

Josephine Underwood Ritter, "The Bechtel House—Antique Shop, Costume Museum," *Germantowne Crier*, March, 1960.

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