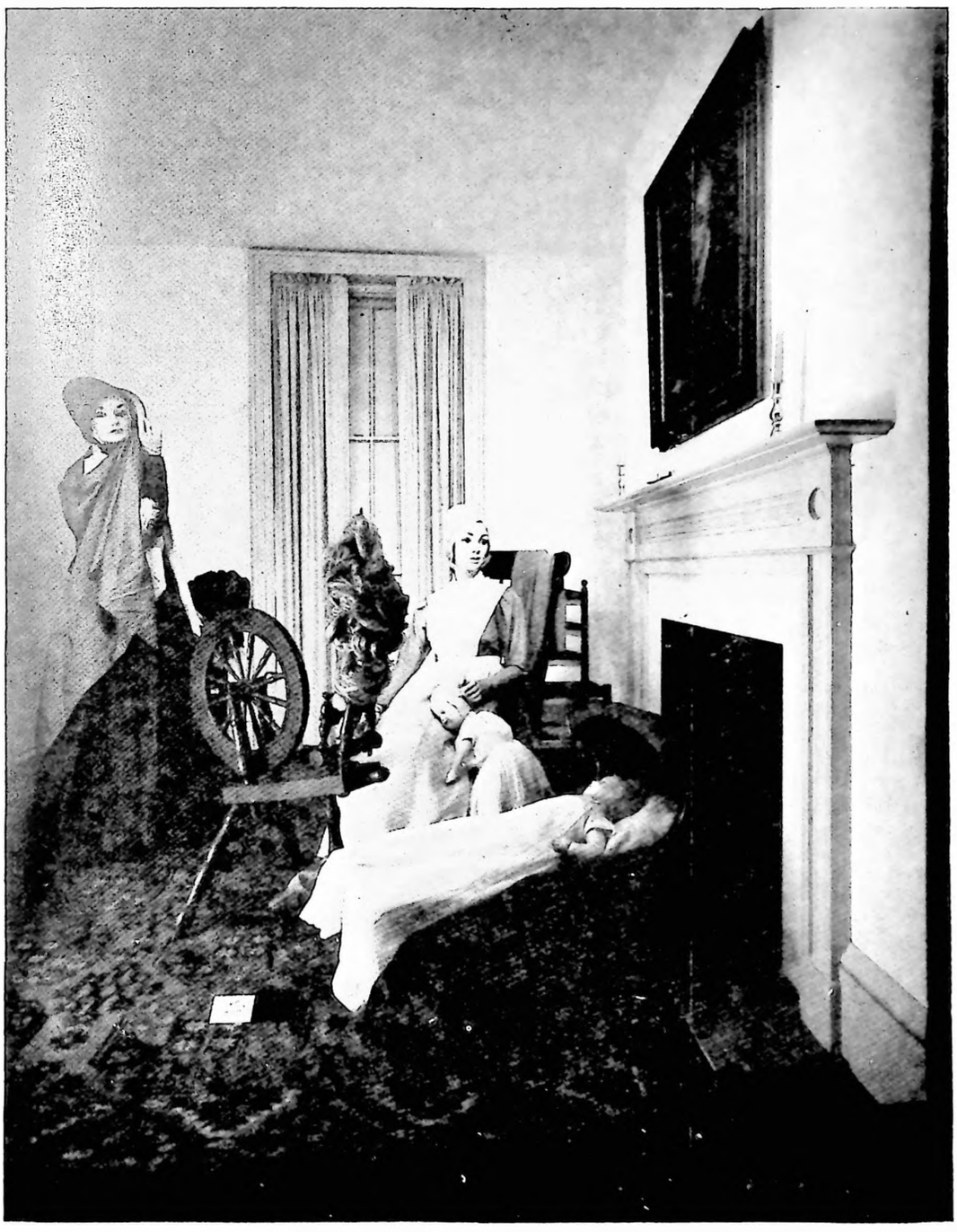
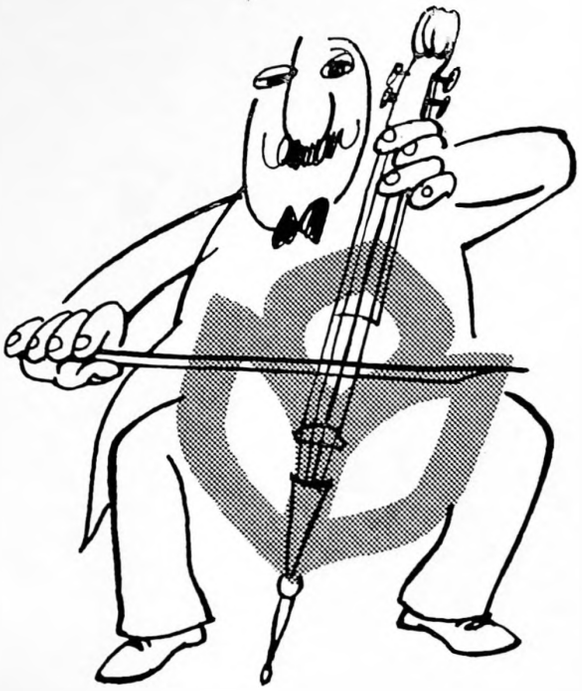
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Volume 23 | SUMMER 1971 | Number 3

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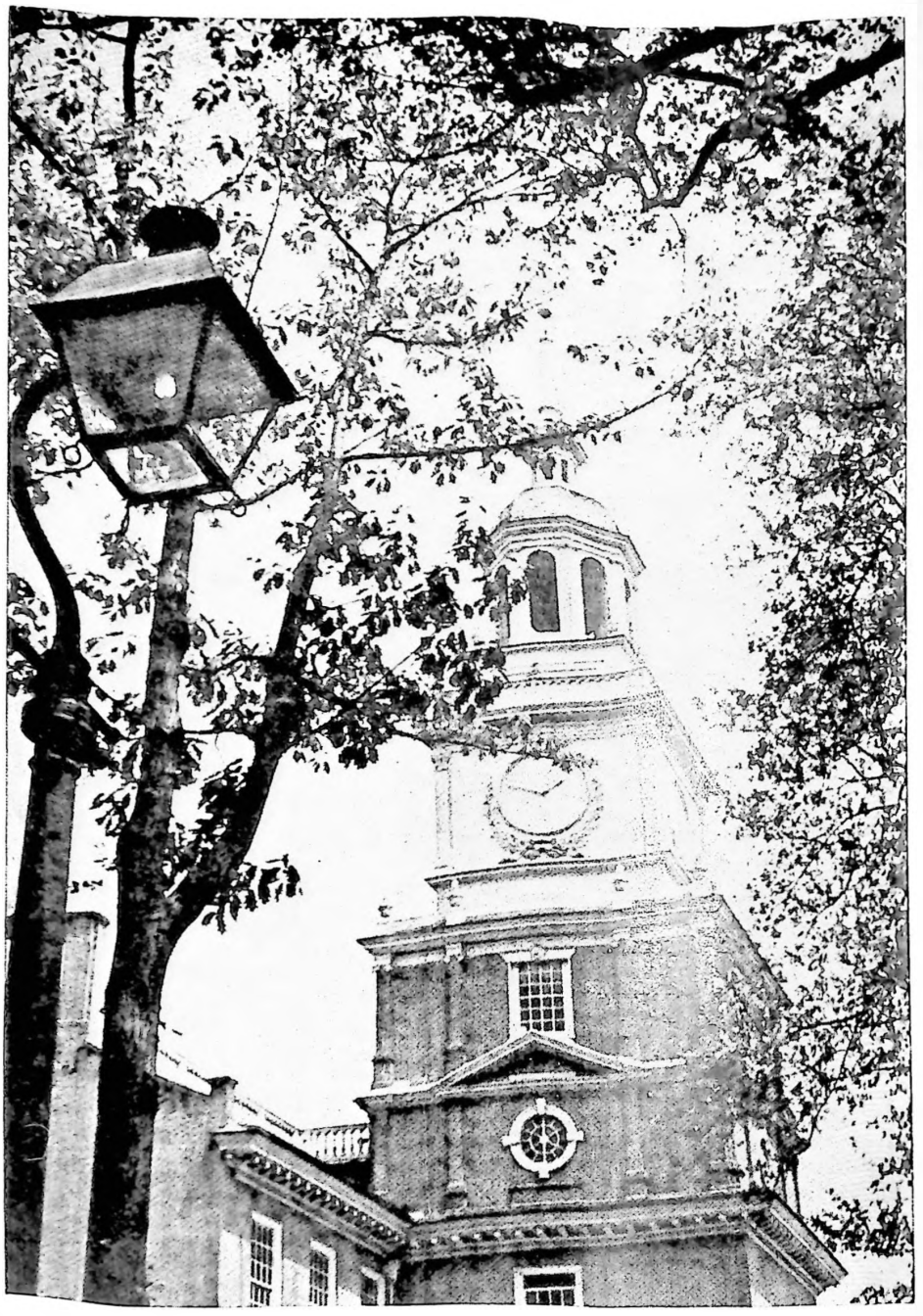
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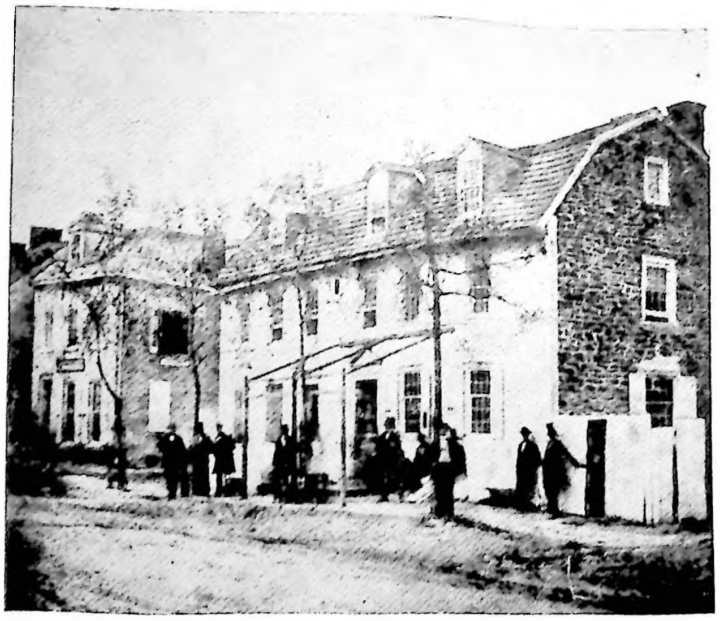
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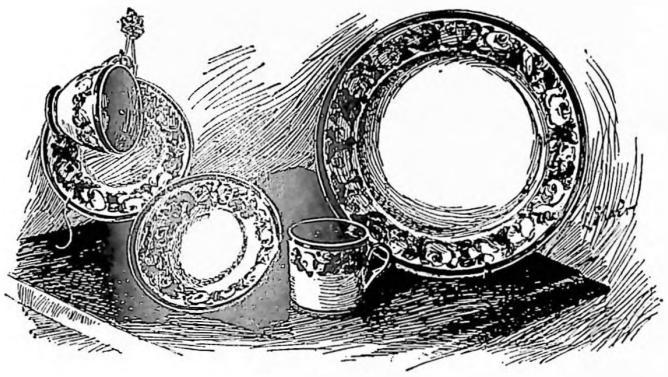
January 20, 1972

February 17, 1972

March 16, 1972

April 20, 1972

Events to be announced



ON THE COVER

Quaker costumes, while following the trend of the day, did not change as much as general fashion did. These garments date from approximately 1850 or earlier.

The mantel is from the Meredith House at 700 S. Washington Square, Philadelphia, now the British Consulate General. It was built in 1818.

The more formal rooms at the Meredith House have elaborate Greek Revival marble mantels. This one, of wood, is from one of the relatively informal upstairs rooms. Because of its simplicity, it was considered appropriate to create a Quaker background.

The long double hung window is later than the mantel. Its large window panes represent advanced technology in glass manufacture and probably dates from the Civil War period, or later.

The portrait is of Deborah Norris Logan, a resident of Stenton, and is lent to this museum by the Fairmount Park Commission.

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The GERMANTOWN CRIER, published in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, is available at the subscription rate of $2.00 annually.

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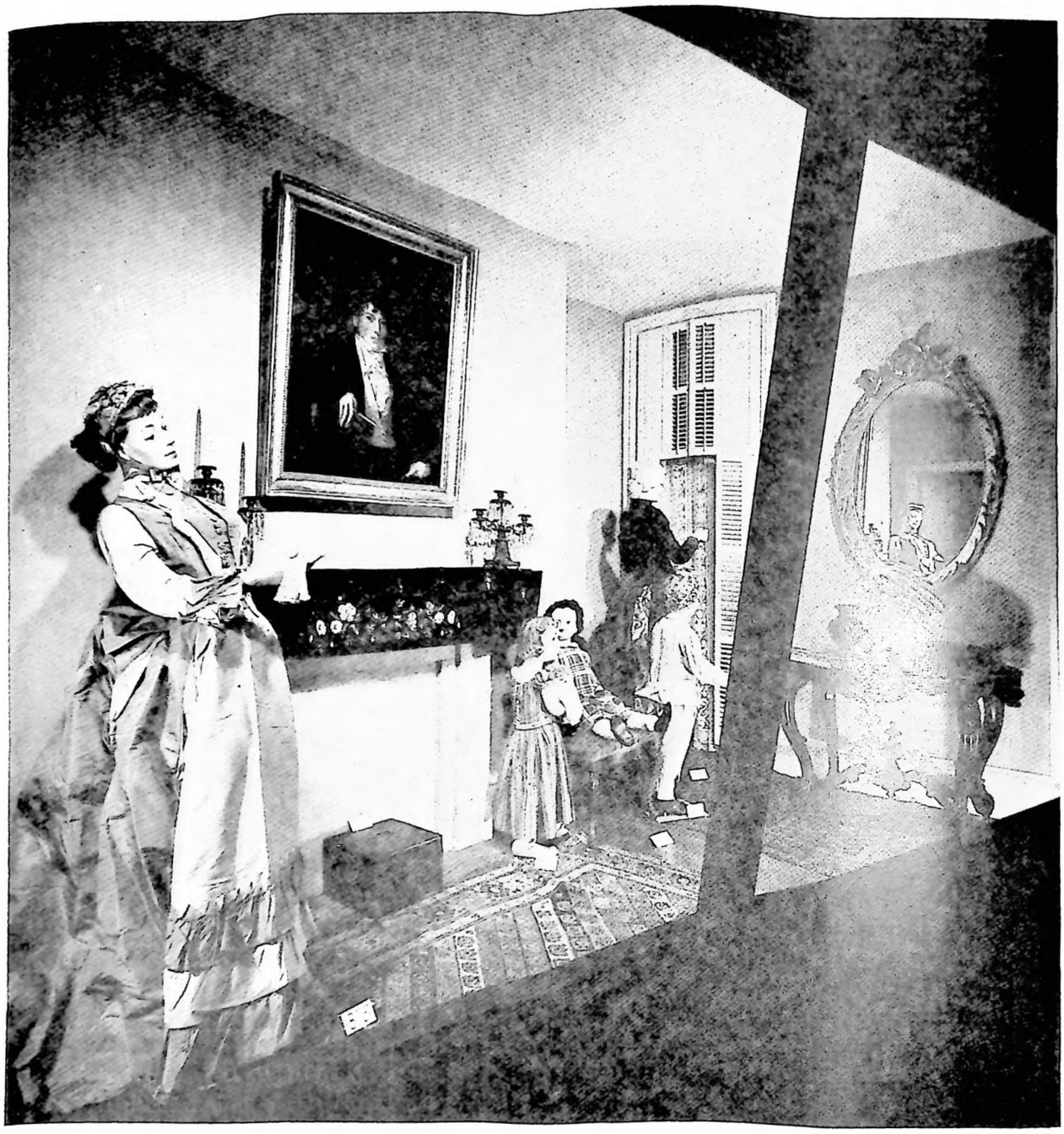
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Late Nineteenth Century Garments

The two-toned gray dress at the left, has pink trim. It is silk, and designed for street wear. It was made in Paris in 1873 and was worn in Germantown. The bonnet did not come with the dress.

The smaller children are dressed in 1870 garments. The tan linen suit, worn by the boy, is dated 1881.

The plum color silk faille dress, near the window, is dated 1889.

It is quite possible that the mantels for this room and the Gothic Revival room were created at the same time, c. 1840. The stone is similar. (The front room was probably the parlor and therefore more formal. Since "Gothic" was more avant garde, that was used there.) In the room here pictured, the pilaster capitals, hidden by the lambrequin on the mantel shelf, are mildly classical in origin. They were simpler and cheaper to produce than the "Gothic" details, so were used in the rear room, which was probably used for dining. Above the mantel hangs James Peale's portrait of Capt. Gibbs Jones.

The full length window, with its louvered blinds, is undoubtedly a 19th century enlargement of an earlier window. During the 18th century, with glass-making still primitive and glass expensive, windows tended to be smaller. This also helped to conserve heat.

The baseboard cap is Gothic in profile. Just a short length of this was found. However, since it was obvious that once all the baseboard had been so capped, this was carried around the room.

The Clarkson-Watson Costume Museum

By Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A.

Editor's Note: The author was architect for the project described above. While most of his work is contemporary, he has also handled important historical restorations. The son of a Philadelphia architect, he is Architectural Advisor to the Philadelphia Historical Commission and is Chairman of the Committee on Conservation and Historical Preservation of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

PHILADELPHIA'S own James Biddle, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has said that only two restored and furnished house-museums in United States pay their own way—Mt. Vernon and Monticello. Obviously, this is not just because they are fine houses of their period, but because they are associated with men of national or even international importance.

While preservationists recognize the need for some carefully restored and furnished house-museums, for the most part, they advocate more active adaptive uses for historic buildings, to keep them alive.

The Clarkson-Watson House, opened in May, as the Germantown Historical Society's costume museum, is a perfect example of this new trend.

Located at 5275 Germantown Avenue, in Germantown, the building has a fascinating history. Until recently, it was thought to belong to the Federal period. However, investigations made during its rebuilding indicate that it was erected about the same time as Grumblethorpe, a few doors south. When the many layers of stucco were removed from the front, vestiges were found of a Colonial pent eave (i.e. a sloping roofiet, applied between the first floor window heads and the second floor window sills), which had been removed during the Federal period. Now the building is considered Colonial.

The building had many notable occupants. One of them was Matthew Clarkson, the illustrious mayor of Philadelphia during the 1793 yellow fever epidemic. When Washington moved the government to Germantown, Mayor Clarkson put his country seat at the disposal of two cabinet members, Edmund Randolph —the Attorney General—and Thomas Jefferson.

Later, the building became the home of John Fanning Watson, author of "Annals of Philadelphia," and cashier of the First Bank of Germantown. Between 1825 and 1869 it served as the office of the bank. Dr. James Wilson Wister had his first office in the north side of the house in the early 1900s.

Subsequently the building was subdivided into two properties, both facing Germantown Avenue, which became stores. It was reassembled and donated to the Germantown Historical Society for use as a museum.

The interiors had vestiges of the many periods the building had spanned. The reassembled building seemed the ideal one to serve as the costume museum of the Historical Society. On the inside, the only significant old period which seemed to be missing was the transitional period from Federal to Greek Revival. With the donation of an 1818 wood mantel from the Meredith House, on Washington Square, that gap was filled.

The plain 1818 Meredith mantel is being used as a prop for the mid 19th century display of Quaker dresses. A small simple room was set up for Lucretia Mott's garments. The more elegant Greek Revival and Gothic Revival marble mantels are focal points in displays of their respective periods. As the Museum is carried into the upper floors, it will be possible to have authentic backdrops for the various 18th Century costumes.

With the first floor now converted to a museum, Mrs. J. Bradford Ritter, Chairman of the Costume Committee of the Germantown Historical Society, says "I believe that our museum is unique in some respects. While most costumes in museums are wedding and formal dresses, Clarkson-Watson has an 1880's kitchen to use as a backdrop and, what is most unusual, housedresses of the period are displayed there. Since housedresses usually end up as dusting cloths, they are harder to come by than fine clothes.

"When the upper floors are converted to museum purposes, we shall have a Victorian bath, to display underthings or nightclothes, on a mannequin who could be brushing her hair. And we shall have an attic for the display of children's clothes."

The collection itself has been donated and has come from many sources over the years. It was on display at another historic house, the Bechtel House, but has outgrown that.

Since little had been published on costume museums, we visited virtually every important costume museum, from Virginia to Vermont. At the outset, it became apparent the only way to protect the garments was to have all displays behind glass. Display ideas were borrowed principally from the Shelburne Museum in Vermont and the Smithsonian Institution. But these were combined with glare-reducing tech-

niques used in storefront design. Storage principles were borrowed mostly from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Climatic standards and techniques were borrowed from the Smithsonian. Following their recommendations, a dust-free atmosphere was created for the costumes, since dust is very injurious to old fabrics. They also recommended a humidity which would be uniform throughout the year. This, too, is provided for the costumes. To save fuel, temperatures within the display and garment storage areas will be relatively cool in the winter and warm in the summer. But the critical consideration, a 50% relative humidity, will remain constant. Only this keeps clothes from deteriorating.

Techniques for washing and pressing the clothes, without ironing them, were also borrowed from the Smithsonian, and built-in equipment to permit these techniques was provided as part of the restoration.

Since sunlight fades old fabrics, all sunlight was excluded from areas where collection garments will be. Thus on the inside of the Venetian blinds, needed for the exterior's authenticity, special shutters were provided to exclude all daylight. Then special cool artificial light was introduced. Glass sash were placed between the lights and the displays, to further keep spotlight heat from reaching and harming the garments.

Special air filters, recommended by Smithsonian, filter dust from the air for the displays.

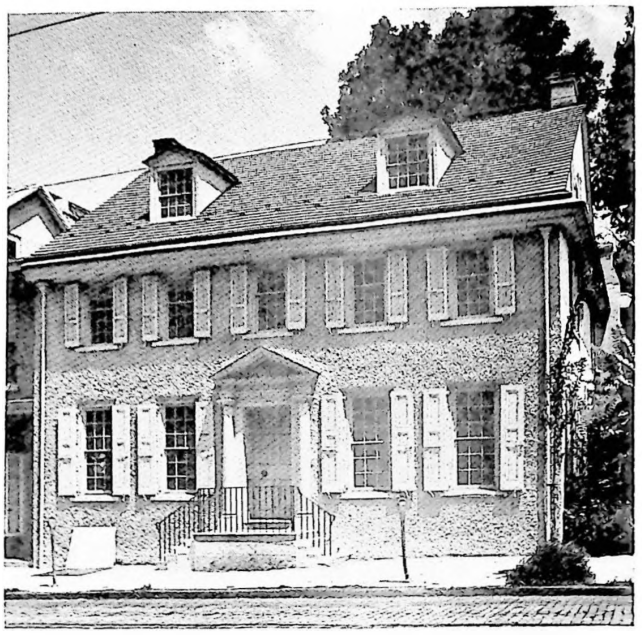
In many respects, it would have been far easier to put such a museum into a new structure and do as most such museums do, use copies of interiors. But certainly authentic interiors and a carefully restored historical exterior are better than mere reproductions. Clarkson-Watson really could be called "frozen history," going back as it does long before the Revolution, with interiors carrying right through the 19th century and mechanical and display lighting systems which are the best that 1971 can provide.

With Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler as historical architectural research consultant, we determined that the building went through seven major phases:

First Phase: It was probably erected in the 1740's and originally had a facade which included a pent eave, raised pointed stonework and a Dutch door, hung from a plank front frame, near the outer surface of the wall.

Second Phase: Since the walls probably leaked, the raised pointing was cut off and building was stuccoed, with the pent eave left in place.

Third Phase: (c. 1770's) This was a "modernization." The pent eave was removed. The walls were stuccoed again, to cover the scars left by the removed pent eave. Three quarter, engaged columns and a pediment frontispiece were added. The door was changed to an elaborate six panel type with raised panels outside and battens inside. It was moved inward, so as to provide panel jambs and soffits and create an interesting shadow. It was also more protected from the elements.



Clarkson-Watson House, restored. Windows have been reinstalled in place of the removed store fronts. Their dimensions were determined by the shutters which were found. The pediment over the doorway is original, repaired. The columns are new, but based on the 1860 photograph. The original marble steps are the bottom two on the left run.

The building looks substantially as it did when occupied by Jefferson and Randolph. (Photography by Cortland V. D. Hubbard.)

During its still earlier phase, it probably looked much like neighboring Grumblethorpe.

Fourth Phase: (c. 1820–30) Another "modernization." This was probably when the building was adapted to the bank's needs. Heavy reinforced shutters were added at that time. A separate door was placed on the front, leading to the bank.

Fifth Phase: The paneled jambs and soffit were replaced by plain jambs and soffit. The columns were replaced with gingerbread brackets. The building was then covered with a gray stucco, scored with white stone coursing.

Sixth Phase: (Late 19th Century) The south storefront was installed with a set of wooden beams supporting the wall above.

Seventh Phase: (Early 20th Century) A storefront was added in the northern half of the building, this one spanned by steel beams.

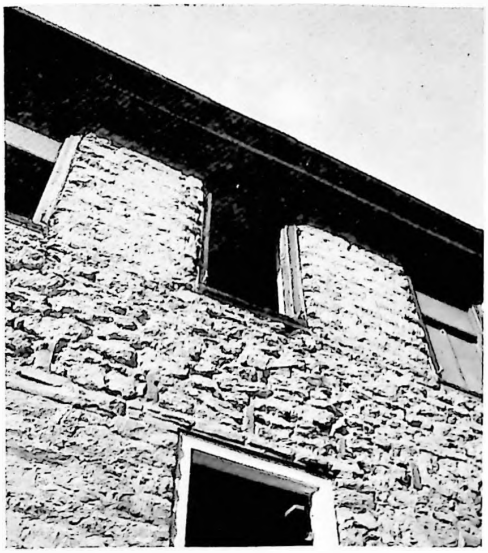
At different times during the Victorian Era, wings were added behind the two halves of the building. The openings between the two halves of the building were closed, not to be reopened until the recent project was undertaken.

The floor structure is quite atypical of center hall houses, with the joists running perpendicular to the front and supported by a great beam, halfway back. Its construction is a continuance of the Medieval German tradition, indicating that probably the original carpenter-builder was German. It has a primitive form of insulation under the first floor. Through the generations, successive owners kept altering the building

and, when it was turned over to the Historical Society, it had vestiges of Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic Revival influences. As might be expected, the most recent or Gothic mantel was in the first floor front, where one parlor had been. As one gets further back or further up into the house, the periods continue to recede.

Much consideration was given to the period to which to restore the exterior. It was known that to restore it to its original condition would produce a facade very similar to Grumblethorpe's, just a few doors away. Excepting for its height, nothing was really known about the pent eave which had been removed during the 18th Century. New shutters would have had to be provided and early sash made.

On the other hand, the very good front door pediment did exist, even though the supporting columns had been removed and replaced by some singularly incompatible gingerbread brackets. It was decided that restoring the facade to its 1793 aspect would mean restoring it to its most prestigious era, the time when it was owned by Philadelphia's mayor and occupied by two of Washington's cabinet members, one later to become President of the United States. This also meant that the pediment could be used and, finally, it allowed the use of the early 19th Century shutters, found in the cellar. These shutters would determine the exact sizes of the windows to be put back when the storefronts were removed.



Clarkson-Watson House, during the restoration. This shows the building with all the stucco removed and the original stonework exposed. Lower right hand corner shows original first floor stonework. That and the stonework between the second floor windows were of good quality workmanship. The stonework between the two floors was put in crudely, because the mason knew that it would be hidden by the little pent eave. The wooden blocks shown above the first floor window line, are sawn-off remnants of the pent eave wooden outlookers. Stonework at lower left is new, replacing the removed shop window. (Photograph by George A. Eisenman.)



Clarkson-Watson House, from an 1860 photo. This was when the building was in its fourth phase and was being used as a bank, as well as the residence of John Fanning Watson. (Photograph from the Castner Collection, Free Library of Philadelphia.)

It was therefore decided to restore to the 1793 period.

Thus, coupled with Grumblethorpe so close by, future generations will have a much better picture of the gradual evolution of Germantown architecture.

When reconstruction was undertaken it was discovered that the wooden beams over the south storefront were split and far too weak. They were about to let the building collapse! When the stucco was removed, cracks of such a serious nature were revealed that we and our engineers had to resort to emergency measures to save the structure.



Clarkson-Watson House. A snapshot showing the building before the restoration was started. Note how the two right hand windows sills slope sharply. This is because the wooden beams, hidden by the metal cornice above the shop window, had such a sag in them that they pulled the wall, windows and roof down at that point. The curve of the end wall resulted from this serious condition. The attic sash were original. The second floor sash are Victorian. Gingerbread brackets are still holding the pediment.

During the recent restoration, the roof on the front of the original building was replaced with tiles which were developed for Williamsburg, Va. These look exactly like authentic cedar shakes but are fireproof, and thus protect the building and its collection. However, these tiles are far heavier than the original wood shakes and, to support them, an elaborate system of steel columns and laminated wooden girders had to be introduced.

In a protected spot on one gable, a sample was found of the original pebble-dashed stucco, which had been applied to the building during the Federal period. This was duplicated exactly.

The front door is the same one which Jefferson used. During the restoration, its glazing was removed and paneling reinserted. All existing original hand-made hardware was retained. The paneled soffit and jambs were recreated. The interesting exterior pediment over the door was restored. Layers of roofing on top of that pediment were removed and it was found that initially it was roofed by two boards, one on each side, carved to look like shingles. Those boards had rotted out possibly a century-and-a-half ago, and different roofing materials had been applied. During the recent restoration, new boards were installed, carved exactly like the original, but chemically treated against rot.

Paint colors for the exterior were determined by careful scraping of the pediment, getting down to the first coat.

The shutters which were found, had hand-made hardware. All this was duplicated, authentically, for other shutters.

With the grade of the street having changed over the years, more steps were needed to get from the street to the first floor. A typical symmetrical arrangement of steps was arrived at, since this would have been perfectly correct for the period. However, it presented one problem; it required marble for carving more steps and the quarry from which the existing steps came had long since ceased operations. After a fruitless search among all marble sources, with Redevelopment Authority approval, correct marble was scavenged from the sites of demolished houses in North Philadelphia. Of course, it all had to be recarved to make it match the two existing marble steps which had been found at Clarkson-Watson.

The restored exterior has the great dignity which was characteristic of Federal Houses.

(Continued on page 101)



The costumes are c. 1880.

The late 19th century saw the development of the kitchen stove. This one is marked "1880." It was made of cast iron, a technique which was perfected in the 19th century. Beyond the stove, not visible, is the metal-lined wood sink, in its original location. The dressers and cupboards are characteristic of the period. Since the kitchen frequently served as a laundry too, it is not surprising to find clothes drying there, near the warm stove. On the table is a goffering iron, to flute fabrics while pressing them.

The iron is dated 1880.

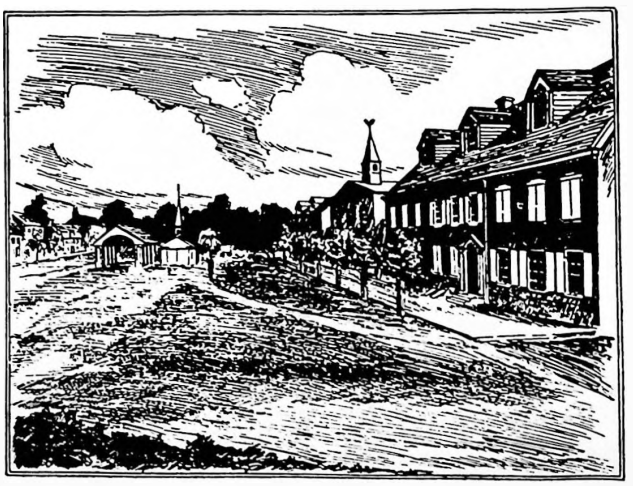
Germantown's Capital Hopes

DURING the Fall of 1834 it became a matter of general news that many members of the State Legislature were dissatisfied with Harrisburg as the seat of government and were considering removal. Thereupon Germantown had an inspiration. A meeting of citizens was held February 6, 1835, at which a committee was appointed who were to inquire into conditions and submit a report on the following three questions: 1. Whether the contemplated removal from Harrisburg was likely to be effected. 2. Whether, if a change be made, Germantown might be chosen. 3. Whether Germantown had the ability to obtain the means to provide suitable accommodations for the different branches of the government.

At the call of this committee a large meeting was held February 19th at the house of George Roop. Joseph Hergesheimer, Esq., was in the chair and Charles Bonsall and Peter Buddy were secretaries. The committee reported that, in answer to the first question, they had been led to the conclusion that although it was impossible to ascertan whether the seat of government would be changed, nevertheless, as the House of Representatives had invited proposals with a view to a change, and as this committee had formally and publicly made known to them our willingness and desire to have the capital located here, and as it seemed to be the general impression that the improvement and prosperity of our town would be greatly advanced by the establishment of the state government amongst us—it was a respect due to the representatives of the people as well as a duty to themselves, to use every exertion in their power to present such proposals as might justify the Legislature in the choice of this place for the future seat of government of this state.

To the second inquiry—as to the probability of Germantown being chosen—they had not been able to arrive at any definite conclusion, but they had deduced the opinion that this town stood an equal chance at least with any other to become the capital for the following reasons: First, That an anxious desire very generally prevailed in the Legislature, and it seemed to the committee extremely doubtful that any other section of the state but this possessed local advantages above those of Harrisburg great enough to induce the Legislature to make it the seat of their annual sessions. It is questionable whether there be a point in any but this quarter which might be thought sufficiently free from the objections made to remaining at Harrisburg, and which could present attractions so strong as to render it, in the judgment of the Legislature, so eligible a location as to induce them to transfer to it the seat of government. If then it could not be shown that some one situation is manifestly the most worthy of their preference, it is highly probable that the members would contend each for having the location made in his particular district, and would rather continue where they were than yield to the pretensions of any other place. Second, If the disposition to leave Harrisburg be so intent as it was said to be, it is very possible that the Legislature, disagreeing as to other positions, might decide upon coming to this neighborhood, where all could agree advantages are to be found vastly superior to those of which any other quarter of the state could boast. The committee was aware of objections that might be advanced—of its situation in the extreme eastern part of the state, an objection which had become weakened because of late improvements connecting Philadelphia more and more closely with various other divisions of the commonwealth. Internal improvements had brought them nearer and nearer by increasing the facilities of communication, thus comparatively annihilating space. There was not, it was believed, a spot in Pennsylvania between which and Philadelphia a journey, which not many years before would have required twelve days, could not now be accomplished in three and a half days. Philadelphia was, as it were,

(Continued on page 93)



Market Square

MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

by courtesy of CLEMENT E. CONGER

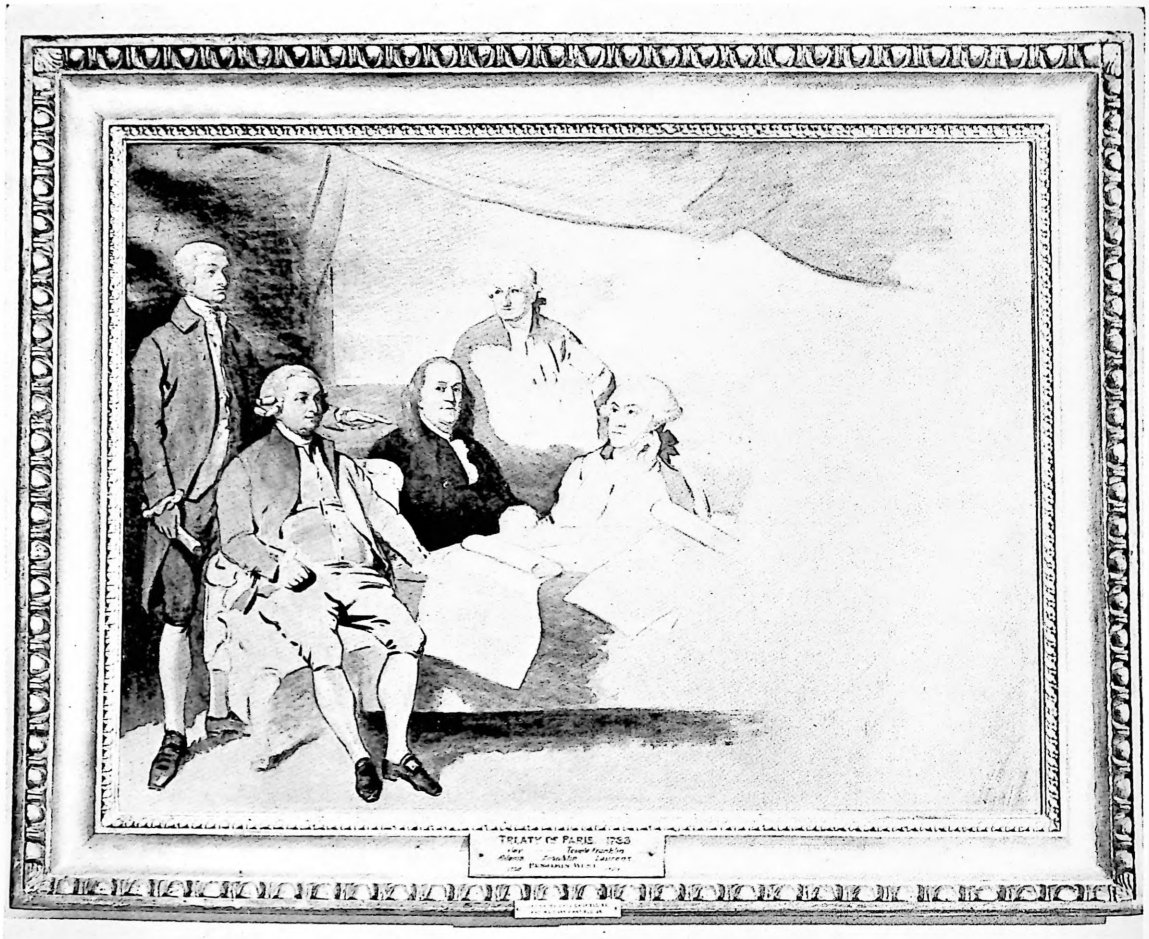
Curator of the State Department and White House

In our spring, 1971 issue of the "Crier" Mr. Clement E. Conger, Curator of the State Department and White House, had a most informative and interesting article "Highlights of American History in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State." Because it is felt this was of particular interest to "Germantowne Crier" readers we are including three additional pictures Mr. Conger included with his article in this issue which were not used previously.

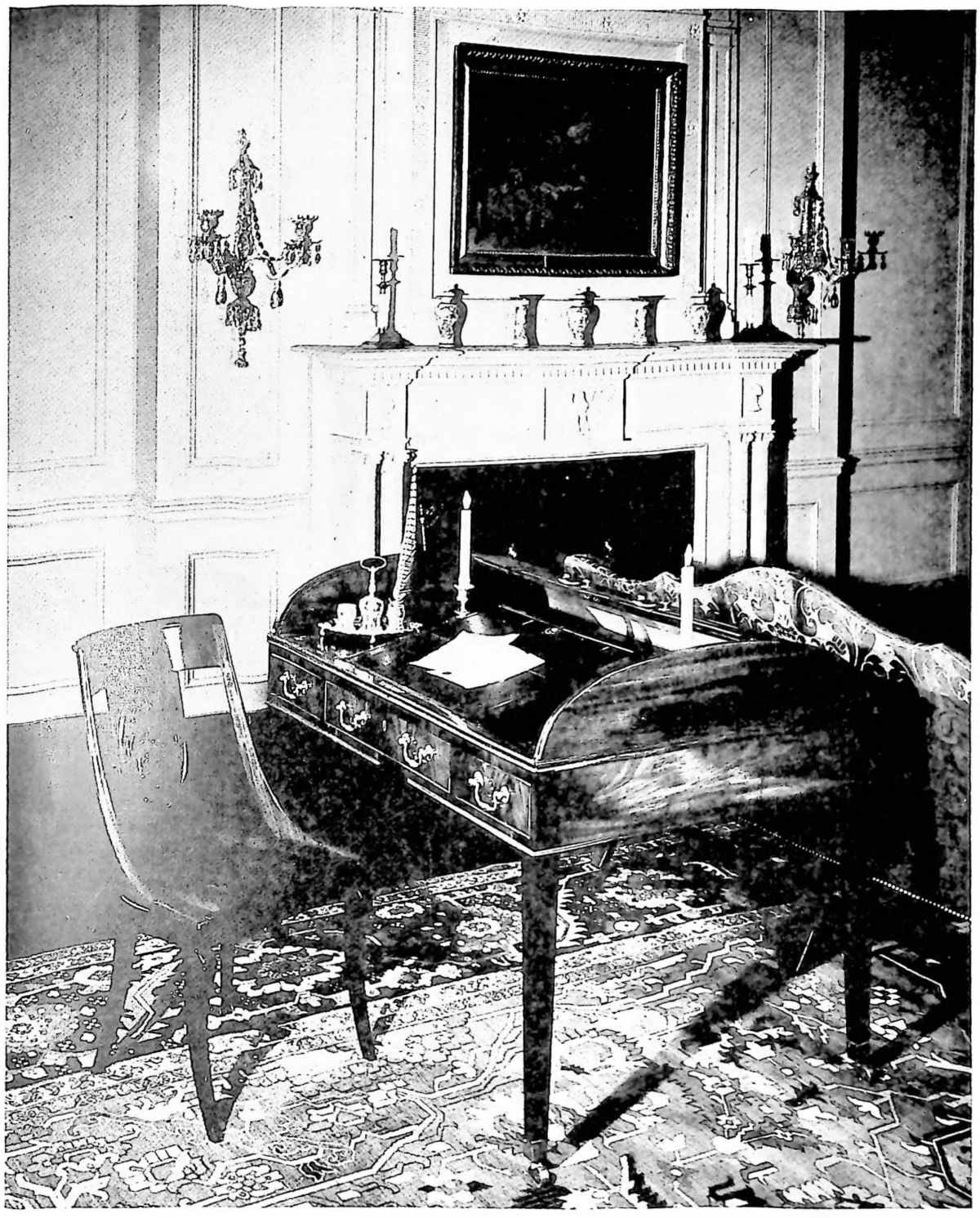
EDITOR



Portrait of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Wilson (1721–1788). This significant portrait of Franklin (1706–1790) was painted from life in London in 1758 by Benjamin Wilson, illustrating in the background the lightning experiment. This large (50″ x 40″) portrait was specifically sought for the Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room. This is one of the few portraits which show Franklin wearing a wig, a custom he discarded after 1775 and it is the first of the foreign series of portraits painted of him. The accuracy of this presentation is verified by its striking similarity to the Franklin portrait painted a year earlier by American artist Matthew Pratt which is considered by many authorities as the first unquestionably authentic portrait of Franklin. This portrait from the collection of the Earls of Albemarle, Quidenham Hall, England, remained unknown to art historians for over 150 years which is surprising in view of the common knowledge of the mezzotinto portrait of Franklin, the first engraved portrait of Franklin, executed by James McArdell in London in 1761 after the Wilson original. Both Franklin and Wilson were interested in electrical experiments at the time the portrait was painted and were Fellows of the Royal Society. This portrait is being acquired for the Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room by the Special Fine Arts Committee.



Oil Painting: "The Signing of the Treaty of Paris, 1782" by Benjamin West, American artist (1738–1820). West re-created in his London studio the historic event of the signing of the Preliminary Treaty of Paris, November 30, 1782, which officially ended the American Revolution. Left to right the American Commissioners: John Jay, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, and W. Temple Franklin (Secretary to the American Commission). The British Commissioner and Secretary never appeared in West's studio to be painted. (Shown in overmantel panel, John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room.)



Paris Peace Treaty Desk, September 3, 1783. English Sheraton tambour writing desk on which the final Treaty of Paris was signed September 3, 1783. The treaty, properly called The Definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendship between His Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, was signed in the apartments of David Hartley (1731–1813), British Commissioner, in the Hotel de York in Paris, by Hartley and American Commissioners John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Jay. The desk is completely original with original brasses and leather. This treaty ended the American Revolution and guaranteed American independence. Facsimiles of the first two pages and last two pages of the treaty are shown on the desk.

The desk was acquired by John Wilmot, "Chief Commissioner for settling claims of the American Loyalists" from Hartley, remained in Wilmot family until 1843 when acquired by H. G. Newton, Esq. In 1926 Newton family sold it to J. Wilson Sons and Coombe, Exeter, England, who shipped the desk to the United States for auction by Grant's Art Galleries, Evanston, Illinois in May 1927.

Desk presented to the State Department in December 1963 by Mrs. Raymond F. Tartiere and her mother, Mrs. Benjamin J. Rosenthal, in memory of the late Mr. Benjamin J. Rosenthal of Chicago; and by Mrs. Benjamin F. Stein in memory of the late Mr. Benjamin F. Stein of Chicago.

Germantown's Capital Hopes

(*Continued from page 91*)

a focus to which all the great highways of the state converged. The committee did not fear that a want of centrality would be a paramount objection. Another objection was considered—that of sitting in or near a large city, lest certain influences which sometimes spring up in dense populations might interfere with fair legislation. This they thought would be upset by advantages, such as the various sources of information which are open here, the ease with which members doing business in Philadelphia could accomplish the same, the comforts of such accommodations as might here be found without danger of unreasonable charges where competition prevents extortion, and the market afforded by Philadelphia beyond comparison with any other in the state for the gratification of the intellectual as well as the physical wants. By coming to Germantown they would have the benefits of its proximity to the metropolis with a comparative exemption from the interruptions to which they might be liable in the crowded city, and would also have Germantown's proverbial healthfulness of air.

To the third inquiry—the ability to raise means—the committee thought that sufficient money could be obtained. Philadelphia had invited the Legislature to bring the capital there, the city and **county** to assume all expense, hence who could doubt that if the location **there** would be of sufficient advantage to the rest of the county to warrant the county in sharing the cost, the location of the seat of Government in any other place in the county, but especially in **Germantown,** would justify in an equal and they presumed in a much greater degree, a like appropriation from the city treasury! The committee had no doubt that a considerable sum could be raised by other means. The increase in value of property, the increase of profits to farmers and the various crafts, to proprietors of public conveyances, etc., would bring large contributions from individuals and companies. The committee knew of one source alone of $10,000 (probably $20,000) contribution if Germantown should be chosen.

In conclusion the committee hoped they might, at no distant period, congratulate their fellow-citizens on seeing Germantown the capital of the State of Pennsylvania.

Colonel A. L. Roumfort moved the adoption of this report, and Mr. William W. Chew, on behalf of the committee, moved that a larger committee be appointed to carry on the work. Both motions were approved, and a committee of 39 members was appointed. The names of these members are given to show who, at that time, were considered prominent men in Germantown: Dr. James Smith, Daniel Snyder, Jacob P. Jones, Colonel A. L. Roumfort, Matthias Hass, Joseph Dickinson, James Gowen, John Miller, Israel Gilbert, John Stallman, John Amey, John Engelman, Conrad Wolf, Charles Bonsall, Erasmus J. Pierce, Jacob Derr, John Leibert, Henry K. Paul, James Duval, William W. Chew, Daniel L. Billmeyer, William Eberly, Charles M. Pastorius, George Price, Dr. William N. Johnson, Samuel Keyser, John S. Henry, J. M. Bockius, Philip R. Freas, Luke Williams, Alexander Provest, Samuel Nevins, James Ashmead, Jr., Benjamin Lehman, Jr., George T. Stuckert, John Wister, Jr., Peter Buddy, John Stadelman and Joseph Hergesheimer.

The capital, as we all know, remained at Harrisburg, but the loyalty to Germantown shown in that report and the naive arguments presented, are most refreshing.

OPEN HOUSE AT WYCK

Mrs. Robert B. Haines, 3rd was hostess to an Open House at Wyck, the beautiful and historic home of the Haines family for many generations, on Saturday, June 19th, to meet Mr. and Mrs. William Edmunds Claussen. Mr. Claussen is the author of the recently published book "Wyck, the Story of an Historic House."

After enjoying the many beautiful and old furnishings in the house, many strolled through the old fashioned garden with its winding paths. Refreshments were served in one of the gardens.

Later Mr. Claussen gave a very interesting talk on new finds and additional facts concerning the history of this fascinating property.

JUNE 3RD GARDEN PARTY

Dr. John L. Cotter, Archaeologist for the National Park Service, was the speaker at the Annual Garden Party of the Germantown Historical Society on Thursday evening, June 3rd.

Dr. Cotter's subject was "The Friendly Underground," Archaeology in Old Philadelphia which, with accompanying slides, was exceedingly interesting.

It had been planned to serve dessert and coffee in the garden of the Society at 5214 Germantown Avenue prior to the program. Due to inclement weather the entire affair was held in the Parish Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Philadelphia Long a Leader in the Field of Education

Reprinted from article by Harrison W. Fry in Phila. Sunday Bulletin August 28, 1949.

By HARRISON W. FRY

PHILADELPHIA is the birth-place of many educational firsts.

While historians may differ about the date of the first public school, this city was among the first, if not the first, to foster education for the under-privileged as well as the wealthy.

A year after William Penn's arrival, the Governor and Provincial Council in 1683 called Enoch Flower to be the first English school-master in the province. The Friends incorporated a public grammar school in 1698 under a charter from William Penn which eventually became the present William Penn Charter School now housed in handsome buildings with a spacious campus on School Lane in Germantown and the Friends Select School, 17th St. and the Parkway.

The first so-called public schools were charity schools for the poor and public education as we define it today did not have its beginning until 1818.

William Penn welcomed to Pennsylvania men and women of many nations and creeds so that the beginnings of education in this city had the contributions for a varied background. Self-reliant pioneers knew the worth of the individual and education seeks to improve the individual.

Free School Books

THE first public school book was written in Philadelphia by Francis Pastorius, the founder of Germantown. Philadelphia was the first city in the United States to give free school books to public school pupils.

The University of Pennsylvania which grew out of the old Charitable School, 4th and Mulberry sts., just below Arch, has a number of notable firsts in its history.

They include the first comprehensive college curriculum, the first medical school in America, the first professional school of law, the first laboratory in the United States for the instruction in chemistry, the first fight against tuberculosis, by intensive research, the first school of hygiene, and health, the first university school of business, the first psychological clinic and the first department of research medicine.

Temple University can claim distinction as the only great institution of learning that had its beginning in one famous lecture, Acres of Diamonds by its founder, the late Rev. Dr. Russel H. Conwell, for many years pastor of Grace Baptist Temple, Broad and Berks Sts., around which the university clusters today. The Philadelphia Dental School, now a part of Temple, was founded in 1863 and is the fourth oldest dental school in the United States.

Some Firsts Listed

CHRONOLOGICALLY listed some of the educational firsts in Philadelphia include:

1727—The Junto established by Franklin and his friends. It later became the American Society for the Promotion and Propagating of Useful Knowledge; it united with the American Philosophical Society in 1769. The American Philosophical Society still as leader in the field of education was founded in 1743.

1762—First School of Anatomy, Dr. William Shippen, founder.

1762—First night school in America opened in Germantown Academy. Each pupil brought his own candles and paid a fee for firewood.

1770—First American publication on pedagogy issued by Christopher Saur in Germantown, written by Christopher Dock, "the pious schoolmaster of Skippack."

1787—First college of physicians.

1821—First college of pharmacy in the world, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, still a leader in this field of education.

1824—First courses in scientific lectures, Franklin Institute.

1836—First high school outside of New England, Central High.

1848—Homeopathic Medical College, later Hahnemann Medical College, while preceded a few years by a similar college at Allentown which lasted but a few years, can today claim to be the oldest of its kind in continuous existence.

1850—First medical college for women, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, the oldest in the world.

1852—First medical degrees given to women.

1852—First institution for the teaching of useful arts to wage-earners, Spring Garden Institute, chartered in 1851.

1848—First free college for orphan boys, Girard College opened under the provisions of the will of Stephen Girard, Philadelphia merchant and philanthropist.

1892—First anatomical and neurological institute in the United States, Wistar Institute of Anatomy, connected with the University of Pennsylvania.

Local History

Early Newspaper Routes in Germantown

JOEL MARPLE, probably the first regular newspaper carrier in Germantown, came from Hartsville, Bucks County, to Germantown in 1842, and soon after started in the newspaper business—serving the morning papers. His office and home were on the south side of Poorhouse Lane—now West Rittenhouse Street—near Greene. At first he covered the entire district himself, but as the business grew and the territory became more extended his eldest son, Amos, was called upon to help—serving the lower end, from Chelten Avenue to Wayne Junction, east and west of the Germantown Road. The writer—the third son—was put to work in 1857, his route starting at Haines Street and ending at Carpenter Street, including both east and west roads. It is needless to say such service entailed a large amount of walking in all kinds of weather. He remembers well an incident of the winter of 1858. One cold disagreeable morning on reaching the Johnson house at Washington Lane—now owned by the Woman's Club—Mr. Johnson was sitting at the front window waiting for him, and invited him in to a breakfast of buckwheat cakes and home-made sausage with a big cup of coffee. On his arrival home about 8.30 o'clock that morning, his want of appetite at the home breakfast table was easily accounted for. After school hours it was his custom to sell the afternoon papers at the railroad station at Price Street for Joseph Parker who kept the store on the opposite corner. At this time—two or three years before the Civil War started—we were serving about 600 copies of the "Public Ledger," 150 of the "Inquirer," 100 of the "North American," and 50 of the "German Democrat." It was our habit each morning to meet the train from the city arriving at the Price Street Station about 6.30. The papers, rolled in bundles, were taken by wagon to our home, where the whole family would work at folding them, so that we should be ready to start on our several routes by 7 o'clock. The writer was expected to reach home again in time to have some breakfast and be at the Rittenhouse School by 9 o'clock.

When the war broke out Amos went into the cavalry and the "lower end" route was sold to Robert Cherry. An assistant—Mark Banner— was then employed to help in the central district which had always been served by Joel Marple. In 1862 the writer started in another business which necessitated the sale of the "upper end" route, until finally, in 1863, the business passed entirely into other hands.

After the war the custom of sending papers out from the city by train was discontinued. The publishers had, up to this time, always paid the expressage, but from 1866 the dealer bore this expense. The papers were sent all over the city by wagon. William Nestor, of Nicetown, is remembered as having the contract for this locality from the "Public Ledger." The printers at this time, too, started to fold the papers, making an additional charge to the dealer for it.

NATHAN MARPLE

Record of Acquisitions of The Germantown Historical Society Since November 1970

Since the last report, which was given in November, the Museum has gratefully received the following gifts:

A mahogany slipper chair through the will of Gordon B. West.

Nine dolls of various ages from Audrey A. Bostwick. Several of these dolls are of the primitive, wooden jointed types. Some have china or bisque heads with cloth bodies. One doll is dressed in the plain Quaker fashion and another is a fashion mannequin with original clothes from the couturier.

Other additions to the toy collections are doll accessories such as lace mitts, shell combs, a trunk with ivory toilet articles, and a fur carriage robe.

A miniature blue and white spode china set of pitcher, sugar bowl and rinse bowl.

A fine set of Lionel trains, circa 1930, was given by Audrey A. Bostwick. This gift further enhances our train case, which now contains four types of engines and cars.

Mrs. Iasalt gave us glass slides and glass negatives of old Germantown taken by Mr. Sanneborn. We have no other record of many of the houses that Mr. Sanneborn photographed.

An old Bible and letters from a Germantown boy written during the Civil War were left at the Museum by an anonymous donor.

Mrs. L. Caspar Wister presented the Museum with a shetland pony sleigh from the Wister family at Grumblethorpe. The sleigh still has the original red paint with green striping. The runners curve up with the dashboard in a continuous swan's neck and end in small ornamental eagle heads. The piece was built about 1850.

Mrs. S. B. Varcor presented fine prints of Germantown houses from her late husband's collection. Mr. A. C. Chadwick had gathered pictures of many colonial and victorian houses of which we have no other record.

A beautiful handknit bedspread made by Louisa Ent in February, 1853 has been added to our needlework collection by Mrs. Showers.

Culture of Silk

Excerpts from—

Page 437–438 Annals of Phila. & Penna. in the Olden Time, John F. Watson, Vol. II (1891 edition).

FROM the commencement of our Annals, at different periods of time, the advantages of silk culture have been recommended or attempted.

As early as the year 1725, James Logan, in writing to the Penn family, recommends "the culture of silk in this country as extremely beneficial and promising." He says "iron works also promise well." In the next year he speaks of silk sent to England, saying "he is glad it proves so good, and he doubts not, in time, the country may raise large quantities."

In 1734, Governor Gordon addresses the lords commissioners of trade on various objects of produce, etc., and speaks in strong terms of his expectations from the culture of silk, "as a fit return to Great Britain" for their usual importations; he says the tree is so natural to our soil, and the worm thrives so well. Some among us have shown its practicability by making some small quantities, etc.

In the year 1770, the subject was taken up in Philadelphia and adjacent country with great spirit. It was greatly promoted by the exertions of the American Philosophical Society, stimulated by the communications from Dr. Evans and Dr. Franklin in Europe. Application was made to the assembly for the establishment of a public filature at Philadelphia, for winding cocoons, and the managers to have power to grant premiums, etc., equal to about £500 per annum, for five years. The necessary incipient funds, equal to £900 were furnished by generous individuals on subscription being generally £2 each, some £15, and Governor John Penn £20. With such means the filature was opened in June, 1770, at a house in Seventh Street, between Arch and High Streets, and a rate of premiums was announced.

It appears that in the year 1771, about 2300 lbs. were brought there to reel, and that of it 1754 lbs. were purchased by the managers in about two months, in July and August; nearly two-thirds of this had been raised in New Jersey. At the same time much discussion of the subject appeared in the gazettes, and many mulberry trees were planted in New Jersey and the counties around Philadelphia. The ladies in particular gave much attention to the subject, and especially after the war had begun, when the foreign fabrics of silk were cut off from their use. As early as the year 1770, Susanna Wright, of Lancaster County, at Columbia, made a piece of mantua of sixty yards length, from her own cocoons, of which I have preserved some specimens* in my MS. Annals in the City Library, page 165 and 170. She also made much sewing silk. Mrs. Hopkinson, mother of the late Francis Hopkinson, raised much cocoons. A woman in Chester County raised thirty thousand worms. To give eclat to these Colonial designs, the queen gave her patronage by deigning to appear in a court dress from this American silk. The best dresses worn with us were woven in England. Grace Fisher, a minister among Friends, made considerable silk stuff; a piece of hers was presented by Governor Dickinson to the celebrated Catherine Macauley. The daughters of Reuben Haines, in Germantown, raised considerable, and his daughter Catherine, who married Richard Hartshorne, wore her wedding dress of the same material. The late Mrs. Logan was among those who in the time of the war raised their own silk in conjunction with several other ladies, to provide for their personal or family wants.

In 1772, Robert Proud, our historian, makes a MS. memorandum of his visit to James Wright's place at Columbia, where he saw one thousand five hundred worms at their labour, under the charge of "the celebrated Susanna Wright." They said they could raise a million in one season, and would have undertaken it with suitable encouragement.

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	7.50
Junior (under 18), Teacher, or Librarian	3.00

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

Mrs. Arthur E. Weil
3912 Netherfield Road
(Telephone: VIctor 3-6089)

A Tribute to the Memory of the Year 1831,

That expired this morning between the hours of 12 and 1
o'clock,
Aged 11 months and 31 days.
It came into the world an orphan,
For its parent just breathed upon its birth and died.
It was adopted by a frigid old Bachelor called

JONATHAN JANUARY;

But the heart of the young Year was chilled by
A very *cool* reception,
Which almost killed it—for the old fellow was
Accustomed to *sleighing*,
And played many *slippery* tricks with his pupil,
Who was fed upon—*cakes of ice!*
He often wore a white wig by day, and at night would
Lay down in a *sheet* of snow,
But folks soon began to see the *drift* of his conduct,
For he set their teeth as well as tongues chattering.
And one day tired of celibacy,
He ran away with
Miss Tabitha Thaw.
Our little hero was taken into the service of

FARMER FEBRUARY,

Who taught him that the path of Industry
Was the way to independence;
Made him put the spade to the soil,
The oxen to the plough;
Told him that to multiply furrows in the field
Was to lessen furrows in the face!
And that in digging, there was no in*dig*nity.
But a matronly maiden by the name of

MERITABLE MARCH,

Took a fancy to the child and he left the Farmer,
She fostered pet lambs; fed young robins;
Pruned plants, and gathered daisies,
But her disposition was violent
The *airs* she sometimes gave herself were unbearable and
little.
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE
Frequently suffered from many a
Severe blow.
He was often in want of a dinner, but Mrs. March could
not
Raise the wind, he might *whistle* for it.
She died in a *gust* of passion for want of *breath*,
Ahd he was taken into favor by the youthful

WIDOW APRIL,

Who had always been known as a *raining* belle,
And a *budding* beauty that looked like a *green* girl
She was always smiling or weeping;
Either in the sunshine or the shower,
But she drowned herself in a flood of her own tears
From envy, at the entrance of a beauty called

MISS FLORA MAY.

No one regretted the loss of the Widow April—
For she was known for a *fool* the first day she was seen.
The child was captivated
With the freshness and fragrance of Flora's rose-wreaths,
The white blossoms that garlanded her tresses,
And the morning melody of the sweet lark,
Sailing at sunrise upward to the sky.
But mistaking an artificial flower for one of her own,
She died of a *mortification*,
That art should so nearly rival Nature.
Nothing could save her, though she was amputated
Above the waist—by a corset lace.
He was then transferred to the care of

GENTLEMAN JUNE,

Who minded his *peas* and *cues*
In his garden and billiard room.
His cowardice was his only crime; for he could not
encounter
Even a sheep, without trying to *shear* off.
He boasted that when he was twenty-one,
He lived a day *longer* than any of his family,
Although some exceeded even thirty.
He grew *crabbed*, and left the world, on
Seeing the *sign* of a *cancer* upon him.
The child was taken under the protection of
A flashy exquisite, called

JULIUS JULY, ESQUIRE:

He was the discoverer of the fox-glove
A very *warm* admirer of the Ladies, although
He sometimes made the house *too hot* to hold them.
He dissolved away one day, like Narcissus,
Either from personal vanity or perspiration,
Recommending the child to a young
And rosy-cheek'd rustic called

AMOS AUGUST.

He soon learned to handle the sickle,
Although it went against the *grain*,
And carry the golden wheat sheaves,
And join in the holly chorus of "Harvest-home."
But he was caught one day sucking cider through a
straw,
And August turned him over to his neighbor,

SOLOMON SEPTEMBER.

But Solomon had a habit of taking all
By the *ears* in the field,
And *thrashing* them afterwards in the barn.
Shortly after Solomon married Miss Ceres.
The honey-moon passed in pleasure, peace and plenty
But she wore *yellow stockings*,
And in a fit of jealousy,
Shut him up in a hot-house, where he was suffocated.
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE
Then sought the service of a Demure Dowager, named

MADAM OCTOBER,

Who looked as if she was always in a *brown* study;
And named herself with dying leaves of different colours.
Sometimes she would sit in the fields with the husband-
man,
To get her *bread* by plain *sewing*,
And hear the song of the Robin red-breast—the last of
the warblers.
But a rough sailor, y'clept Old Equinox,

In a fit of abduction, took her up and gaily carried her off
in a gale of wind.
The child was again thrown upon the world,
Until found by a gloomy and mysterious being,
Whose name was

NICODEMUS NOVEMBER.

His cloak was made of fog, and his cap of mist.
He was a vampyre and a cannibal,
For he solaced himself with a *suicide*
At breakfast, and at dinner feated on
A felo de se.
At last, Nicodemus was tormented to death by
His own *blue devils.*
The last master that our little orphan lived with
Was a rough old shrivelled roisterer, called

DAVID DECEMBER.

Whom every one tried to keep out of doors.
Sometimes the poor old soul whould storm at
The windows, and then whisper
And whisper through key-holes and crevices.
Or try to rush in when the door opened.
But all to no purpose; they did not *Mince* the
Matter, except with pies.
The snow fell upon his bare head.
The icicles hung upon his white hairs.
With the child in his arms, he laid him down;
They died together,
And were buried in the tomb of time.
Their last words to us were,
"We hope your patrons will not forget you,
When you sincerely wish them many
A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Philad. January 1, 1832.

Reprinted from Uncle Sam's Large Almanac for 1832.

CLARKSON-WATSON MUSEUM

(*Continued from page 90*)

Judge Harold D. Saylor, President of the Germantown Historical Society, points out that "The National Park Service has declared Germantown Avenue, in Germantown, to be a 'National Historic Site.' Our Society is already running a significant group of museums: the Deshler-Morris House on Market Square (where Washington lived), the Conyngham-Hacker House at 5214 (the general museum), the adjacent Howell House (the textile and toy museum), and the Baynton House (the library). Adding Clarkson-Watson, another important museum, to this Germantown Avenue group, will certainly strengthen the National Park Service's efforts.

"It is the Society's hope to have the upper floors of the Clarkson-Watson House completely adapted to museum use by the time of the Bi-Centennial."

If this happens, the combined Germantown Historical Society Museum complex will be an important feature for countless thousands of visitors to see.

"Much of the material in the above article originally appeared in the WFLN Philadelphia Guide, April 1971, under the title, 'A New Museum for Philadelphia.' We are indebted to the Guide for permission to reproduce it in the Germantown Crier."

*"There is nothing in the world
that some man cannot make
a little worse and sell a
little cheaper, and people who
consider price only are the man's
lawful prey."*

—JOHN RUSKIN

Think about that next time
you are in the ice cream
section of your super market.

BIJOU ICED CREME

New Names for Ancient Thoroughfares

Excerpts from newspaper clipping, Page 102, Germantown Scrap Book, Vol. XVIII—1912, Jan. to April, inc.

Old Street Names Will be Restored. Site and Relic Society to Erect Signs Designating Germantown's Ancient Thoroughfare.

Dr. Burgin Gaters Data (Mar. 1, 1912).

Iron signs bearing the ancient names of Germantown streets are to be placed at Street Corners, along with the tin signs which the city puts up to designate the modern names. This step for the preservation of the old-time names of the highways has been decided upon by the directors of the Site and Relic Society.

In the majority of instances the older thoroughfares of Germantown no longer bear their original names, many changes having been made about fifteen years ago in the endeavor to avoid the duplication of street names throughout the city. This was a matter of regret to many of the old residents of Germantown, and some of them still use the original street names in preference to those having official sanction.

The members of the Site and Relic Society believe that the old names ought to be preserved, because these names are used in the old documents and writings pertaining to Germantown, and already in some instances it is difficult to identify highways by their old names.

The directors of the Site and Relic Society met last Friday evening in the museum in Vernon Park and considered the matter of putting up the proposed signs. Dr. Herman Burgin is in charge of the enterprise, and he reported that he has learned the old names of many of the streets, but that his work in that direction is not yet completed.

The following is a list of the names of streets that have been altered:

Present Names	*Old Names*
East Logan Street	Fisher's Lane
Wister Street	Duy's Lane
Manheim Stree	Cox's Lane
Queen Lane, Indian Queen Lane, Bowman's Lane	West Penn Street, Linden Street
East Penn Street	Shoemaker's Lane
West Rittenhouse Street	Poor House Lane
East Haines Street, Methodist Lane, Pickius Lane	
Collom Street	Jefferson Street
School Lane	Bensell's Lane
East Washington Lane	Abington Lane
West Sharpnack Street	Good Street
Carpenter Street	Tullinger's Lane
McCallum Street	Adams Street
Newhall Street	Baird Street
Laurens Street	Bexley Street
Devon Street	Bockius Street
East Stafford Street	Bowman Street
Bouvier Street	Branch Street
Bellfield Avenue	Cedar Lane
Musgrave Street	Cedar Lane
Magnolia Avenue	Cedar Lane
East Rittenhouse Street	Center Street
Garfield Street	Clifton Street
Lena Street	Cumberland Street
Phil-Ellena Street	Church Street
Weaver Street	Cherry Lane
Cosgrove Street	Douglas Street
Woodstock Street	Dutton Street
Lambert Street	Eberle Street
Osceola Street	Engle Street
Hortter Street	Franklin Street
Baynton Street	Hancock Street
West Haines Street	Lafayette Street
Woodlawn Avenue	Laurel Street
West Price Street	Lehman Street
Marion Street	Lynch Street
Schuyler Street	Marshall Street
Clapier Street	Mechlin Street
East Seymour Street	Mehl Street
Church Lane	Mill Street
Durham Street	Miller Street
Mechanic Street	Mohawk Street
Sheldon Street	Miller Street
Magnolia Street	Nash Street
Ross Street	Nash Street

OBITUARY

The members of the Germantown Historical Society have been saddened by the sudden passing of Mrs. Paul E. Schlecter, who for several years was editor of the Society's quarterly magazine, *Germantowne Crier.*

Mrs. Schlecter always seemed to thoroughly enjoy working for the Society and was diligent in her quest for interesting material. She will be missed.

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Some Notes about Money in Colonial Times

THERE was much confusion in the Colonies as to money. Our American dollar was not established until 1785, several years after the end of the Revolutionary War. People had reckoned in English pounds, shillings and pence, and continued to do so, even after our decimel system had been established. Rates of exchange were most difficult and the rate was different in each place in America. The rate in England was different too. Coins from many places were used. The Pennsylvania rate of exchange was about seven and a half shillings to the old Spanish piastre, or dollar, called by some "Pieces of eight." The Spanish dollar was thought to be the most reliable of the coins as to mineral content. The condition of the coin must be considered as well, a worn coin had probably lost some of its value thru constant use as the weight would not be the same as in a new coin. Money was very complicated.

It has often been said that the Concord School cost approximately $1,200.00. (This figure apparently is incorrect.) The cost of the school, including some furnishings, in the Trustees' Minutes, was given as 239 pounds, 3 shillings and 3 pence. According to authorities, listed below, the cost would have been about $640.00, including some furnishings, *if* the dollar had been established at that time.

(a) Reports of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, (Reports on Finances) Volume I, to which is affixed: "The Report of Alexander Hamilton on the "Establishment of a Mint," page 133.

(b) Prices in Colonial Pennsylvania, by Anne Bezanson, Robert D. Gray, Miriam Hussey. Industrial Research Department, Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania, 1935, Introduction and Chapter XIII, page 314.

(c) Wholesale Commodity Prices in the United States 1700–1861, Statistical Supplemental by Arthur Harrison Cole, Professor of Business Economics, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University, 1938. Introduction.

(d) Federal Reserve Bank in Philadelphia, Miss Doris Zimmerman, Historian and Librarian.

For further information in regard to the above, refer to "A Visit to the Old Concord School House in Germantown" in the Spring, 1971 "Crier."

DORIS F. RITZINGER
Historian of the
Concord School House

A Map of
Historic Germantown
Designed by J. Riegel, Jr.

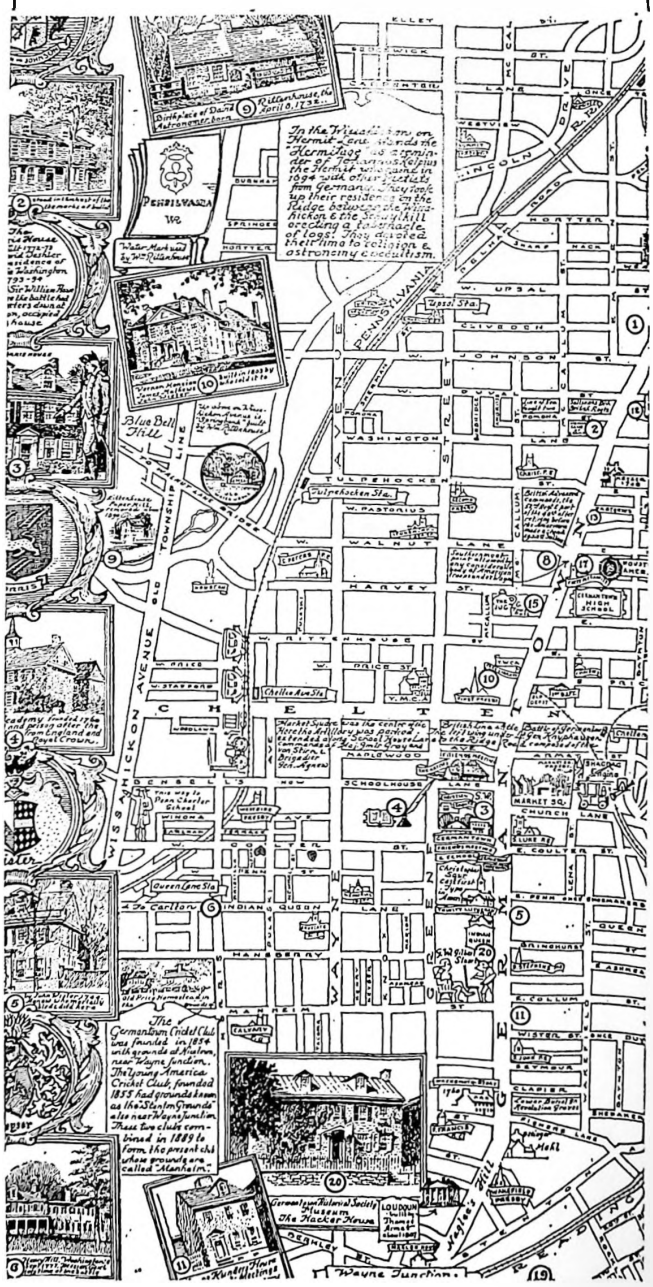
This detailed map, elaborated with numerous sketches, shows the locations of streets, historic buildings, churches, etc. It is replete with data concerning local people, places, and events.

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