GERMANTOWNE CRIER





Photo by Dennis L. Johnson, A.I.A.

"There earliest stirred the feet of spring,
There summer dreamed on drowsy wing,
And autumn's glories longest cling
Along the Wissahickon."
—From *McAroni Ballads*, by T. A. Daly

see Page 57

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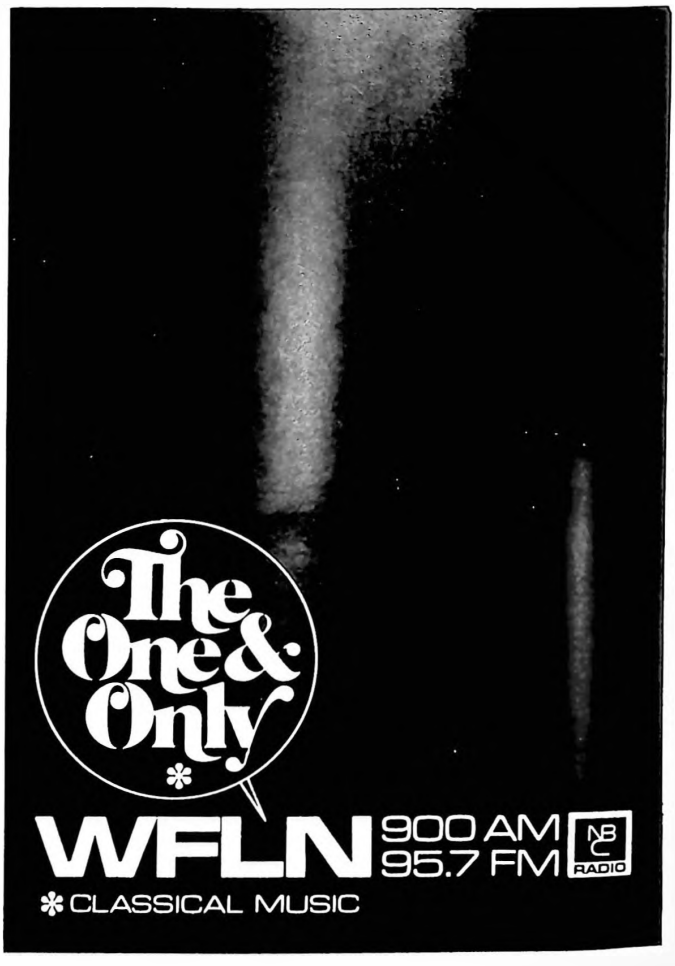
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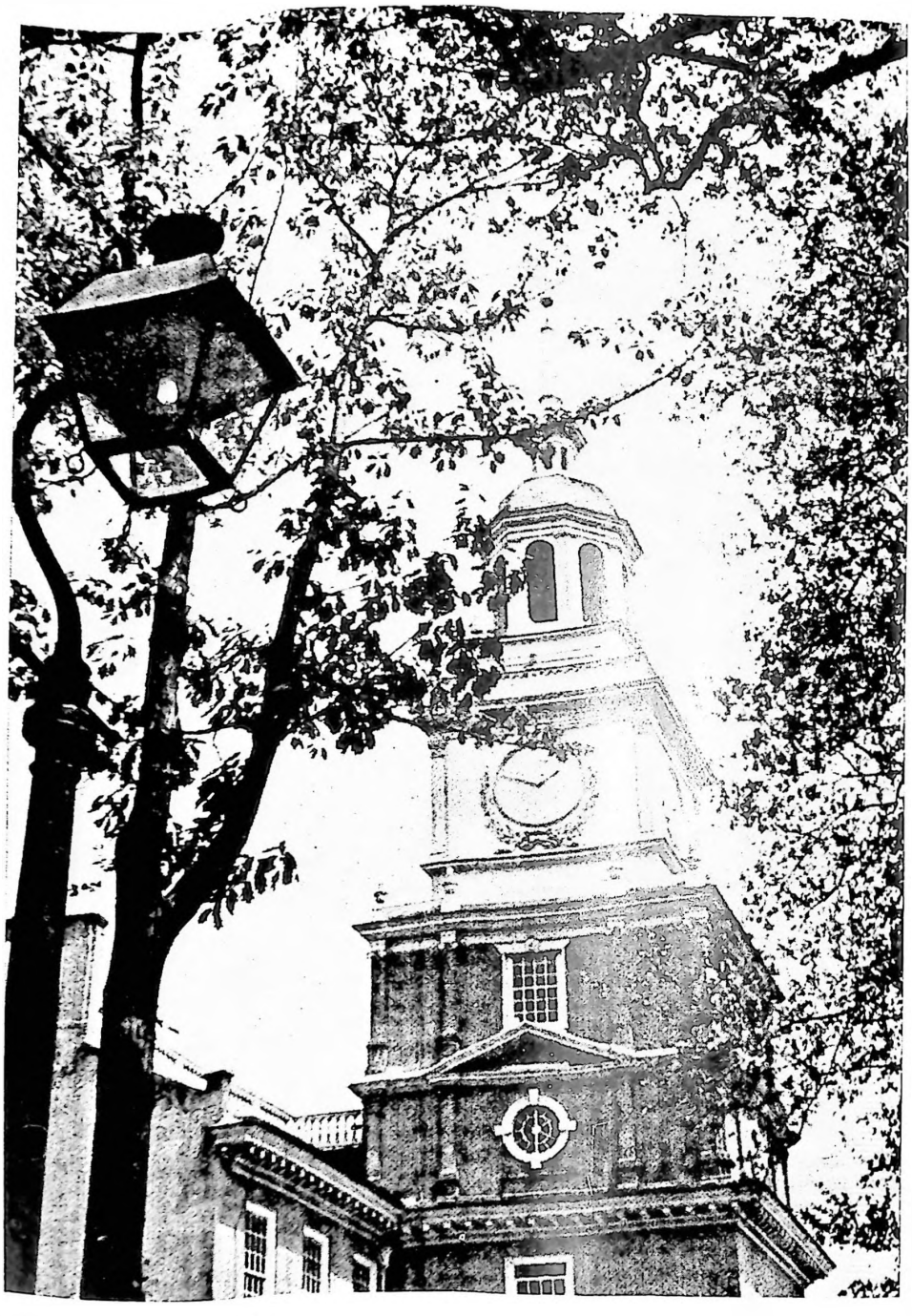
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The Wissahickon Wilderness: Will It Survive?

By PHYLLIS KNAPP THOMAS

In pursuit of information for this article I am indebted to many, especially Friends of the Wissahickon F. Markoe Rivinus, President, E. Perot Walker, Secretary, and Marion W. Rivinus of the Board of Directors; John Mellhenny, Park Historian, Fairmount Park Commission; Dorothea Persechetti of the Save the Wissahickon Committee, and Joy Callender of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.

If we follow the bridle path southward from Bell's Mill Road in Chestnut Hill along the Wissahickon Creek's east bank, the sounds of civilization are soon left behind. Steep hillsides and craggy, moss-covered boulders delineate a world little changed by the passing of centuries. Uphill and down winds the trail among hemlocks and other trees native to this primeval valley. Rushing waters grow calm. We pause to listen to the hammering of a woodpecker or the high, clear notes of a wood thrush.

Like those who came here of old — Lenni Lenape Indians, settlers, mystics, millers, and travelers — we gaze about us in wonder. How vividly John Greenleaf Whittier in *The Pennsylvania Pilgrim* captures our experience of the moment: "Green calm below, blue quietness above, still flow of water, deep repose of wood"!

Venturing farther, we make an unexpected discovery. Where the stream churns over a mill dam is an old-style covered bridge! Later we learn that this bridge at Thomas Mill Road is the only covered bridge left in the Wissahickon area. (At Livezey Lane there was one three times as long. Others were found at Allens Lane, Kitchens Lane, Shurs Lane — where the Blue Stone Bridge is today — and at Falls Bridge over the Schuylkill.)

The bridge was first built in 1855. By the 1930's it was in such a state of disrepair it was falling into the creek. Should it be removed? Or saved?

The Friends of the Wissahickon came to the rescue.* On May 25, 1938, a resolution was passed at the association's annual meeting declaring that this bridge should be restored "as a monument to the ancient covered bridges of Pennsylvania."

Soon afterward, under the direction of Alan Corson, then chief engineer of the Fairmount Park Commission, and with the help of funds given by Dr. and Mrs. George Woodward and other Friends, the Red Covered Bridge was sturdily rebuilt. Now it is used by horseback riders, hikers, or picnickers who come to enjoy the recreation area located nearby. Thoughtfully, the Friends of the Wissahickon have provided picnic tables with benches and stone fireplaces at this scenic spot — only fifteen minutes on foot from Bell's Mill Road.

IN DANGER SINCE COLONIAL TIMES

Will the Wissahickon Valley survive? Can a hidden gorge, uniquely wild yet within city limits, continue to withstand the onslaughts of modern life?

The question of the valley's survival is not new. This narrow, irregular strip of woodland, six-and-one-half miles long, has been in danger ever since the first settlers built their log homes in the areas now known as Greater Germantown and Roxborough in Philadelphia's Northwest.

Earlier the Lenni Lenape maintained a way of life in close harmony with the natural environment. Only a network of paths linked them with friends far away. Treading lightly through the forest on moccasined feet, they hunted and fished for food, studied herbs for use as medicines, and instructed their children to respect the entire world of nature as reflecting the realm of the spirit. No living creature was to be destroyed, nor a single tree chopped down, unless there was need.

Even the name "Wissahickon" reminds us of the Indian's at-homeness in the out-of-doors. Now anglicized, the name is believed to be derived from the Indian word "Wisauksickan," meaning Yellow-colored Stream, or from "Wisamickan," meaning Catfish Creek.

With the gradual passing of Lenni Lenape culture came another way of living, more complex and trades-oriented. Much of the industry here depended upon water power from the Wissahickon Creek and its tributaries. As time went on, more and more mills were built by enterprising colonists until by the mid-1800's there were about sixty mills in operation.

To give mills better access to Ridge Road in the 1820's, city engineers removed the great granite barrier behind the waterfall where the Wissahickon Creek flowed into the Schuylkill River. Now many more people on horseback or on foot could see for themselves the beauty of the interior valley.

Local roads were improved. In 1856 an old cart road connecting mill sites — once the width of one wagon — was improved and opened along the creek as the Wissahickon Turnpike (now known as the Carriage Drive or "Forbidden Drive," from the Wissahickon Drive to Northwestern Avenue). Then sightseers coming by carriage or by sleigh savored catfish-and-waffle dinners at well-known hotel-taverns along the way, in-

*The Friends of the Wissahickon, Inc.
P. O. Box 4068
Philadelphia, Pa. 19118

cluding Wissahickon Hall, Log Cabin, Maple Springs Hotel, and Valley Green Inn.

The threat of creeping commercialism was countered by "The Romantic Discovery of the Wissahickon." Celebrities like actress Fanny Kemble and popular novelist George Lippard helped to publicize the region as unique. Edgar Allen Poe described the pleasures of his own visit by boat in an essay entitled "Morning on the Wissahiccon" in 1844.

A new public awareness of the Wissahickon was accompanied by growing concern. *This valuable forested land would soon be lost forever unless drastic steps were taken for its protection.*

RESCUED FOR URBAN PARKLAND

Fortunately for Philadelphia and in spite of opposition, far-sighted persons like Henry H. Houston and Eli Kirk Price, aided by Morton McMichael, influenced the passage of legislation in 1868 that added the Wissahickon Valley to the city's Fairmount Park. This act of assembly called for the Fairmount Park Commission "to appropriate the shores of the Wissahickon Creek on both sides, of such width as may embrace the road now passing along the same; and may also protect the purity of the water of said creek, and by passing along the crest of the heights which are now on either side of said creek, may preserve the beauty of its scenery."

Fairmount Park's history had begun in 1812 with the purchase of five acres of the Morris Hill tract, called "Faire Mount" on old maps, for a reservoir and public gardens. (There today beside the Schuylkill stands the Philadelphia Museum of Art.) In 1867 an act of legislature reserved two thousand acres as "Fairmount Park." More land was added over the years until today the park encompasses approximately 8300 acres, of which some 1370 acres belong to the Wissahickon Valley.

When the valley was first rescued for parkland in 1868, the Fairmount Park Commission — organized only the year before — faced a formidable task. The land must be surveyed and the commercialized spots restored as fully as possible to their natural state in time for the celebration of the nation's Centennial.

The Commission set to work with determination. After 1873 all the mills in the valley within city limits were torn down. Gradually most of the inns closed too, now that alcoholic beverages could no longer be sold there, by park regulation. (Only Valley Green Inn is now in operation, serving meals to the public. Wissahickon Hall also remains as the park's police station.) When the Centennial Exposition was held in Fairmount Park in 1876, the Wissahickon area was ready for its admiring visitors, many from around the world.

The problems of the Commission had only begun. Ongoing park maintenance demanded hard work and never-ending vigilance. As the recreational use of the park increased, the renowned Fairmount Park Guard, organized in 1868, kept busy overseeing this large territory.

The twentieth century brought with it the intrusion of the automobile. Disturbing to horses, to persons hiking or strolling, and to all the timid creatures of the wild, the auto was once required to limit its speed like other types of vehicles to seven miles an hour! Finally through the efforts of the Philadelphia Riders and Drivers Association, formed in 1912, automobile traffic was forbidden altogether by park ruling from the Wissahickon's Carriage Drive (hence the name "Forbidden Drive"). This ruling has been firmly upheld by the Commission over the years.

UNDER A CONTINUING THREAT

Handicapped by insufficient funds, the Fairmount Park Commission found it impossible to do all that needed to be done. By the 1920's the woods and paths of the Wissahickon Valley showed signs of neglect.

In 1925 a group of about fifty concerned men and women, most of whom owned property along the valley, met at the home of Samuel F. Houston "to consider the uncared-for condition of the Forest which bordered the Creek" (as reported later by Anna Blakiston Day). Since then, for over half a century, the association of citizens known as the Friends of the Wissahickon in cooperation with the Fairmount Park Commission has played a key role in the valley's preservation. Today more than 600 members support the Friends' original aim: "to preserve the natural beauty and wildness of the Wissahickon Valley and to stimulate public interest therein."

The task was clear. In March of 1926 the association's first president, Charles F. Jenkins, wrote to all members: "Somewhat over a year ago newspaper comment coming from the pen of Mr. Harvey M. Watts called attention to the sad condition into which the Wissahickon Valley is falling. Several causes contribute to this: the erection of many buildings adjacent to the Valley is bringing about conditions which are not conducive to the growth of certain forest trees; there has been little or no planting to take the place of the trees that have died, notably the chestnut trees, which were annihilated by the terrible blight of a few years ago; a third cause is the most deplorable of all, and the one that should be most easily rectified, the wanton destruction of plants, flowers and small trees by the very persons who should be most eager to protect the property of the citizens of Philadelphia."

Mr. Jenkins went on to summarize the association's progress: At the first meeting, called in response to the newspaper articles, plans had been made to discover what planting was needed and to provide for it as well as to educate others "to take pride in, and to help preserve, the trees in this wonderful Valley." Since then there had been three radio talks on Wednesday evenings to inform the public. A committee after investigation had recommended planting hemlocks, birches, beeches, laurel and other trees native to the region; $3,500 had been suggested for the year's expenditure. Would members help by contributing to the cost?

Early activities of the Friends of the Wissahickon are described in faithful reports by Mrs. Day, secretary of the organization for many years. One of the first steps was to employ men to remove dead and fallen trees, and those about to fall, leaving only what was necessary for replenishing the soil. A continuing project was the growing of young seedling trees, mainly hemlocks, at the park nurseries. As many as

fourteen thousand such trees were transplanted for the benefit of barren places during the first five years the Friends were active. When plans for the construction of Henry Avenue threatened a young forest the Park Commission had planted, the Friends financed the trees' safe removal to other areas of the park.

Besides the providing of trees and shrubbery as needed, responsibilities of the Friends have included improving roads and paths that lead into the park and acquiring adjacent woodlands. All such projects are under the direction of the Fairmount Park Commission.

Always the association has endeavored in a variety of ways to make known to others the valley "as a place of great historical interest and a unique recreational asset of the City if preserved in its present wild state . . ." (from the Charter of Incorporation of the Friends of the Wissahickon, granted June 2, 1932).

To teach others was first of all to learn! Since 1925, Friends have sought to discover more about the region of their concern, both present and past.

Historically, the Wissahickon is rich not only in tradition but also in associations with real people and events. Here William Rittenhouse began the first paper mill in the colonies . . . John Kelpius and his fellow-mystics meditated and tended herbs . . . German "Brethren," once persecuted, were baptized on Christmas Day, 1723, in icy waters . . . Thomas Livezey chose the colonial homestead he called "Glen Fern" and Joseph Gorgas built "the Monastery" — both buildings still standing today . . . Jacob Levering and the "Green Boys" spied on enemy Hessians . . . part of the Battle of Germantown was fought in 1777. Fact fades into folklore as "Mom" Rinker, knitting at the edge of a precipice, drops a ball of yarn containing its hidden message for General Washington at Valley Forge. The stories spin on and on.

(In 1974, high school students participated in a "dig" on the Gorgas mill site near Kitchens Lane in order to learn more about old mills of the 1700's. The project was under the direction of Jeff L. Kenyon of the University of Pennsylvania Museum.)

The area has long fascinated students of natural history. In ancient times the Wissahickon's rocky gorge somehow escaped the glaciers of the ice age as well as the Cambrian Seas. Its rock, an unusual gneiss containing mica and feldspar, is part of Appalachia, the oldest land formation known in the Western Hemisphere. Once the waters poured through the valley in a raging torrent. Now the Wissahickon flows along more gently, wearing away the rock unceasingly as it has for centuries untold.

Plants of long ago abound: hemlock, oak, dogwood, sassafras, tulip poplar, and a great many others. Today the only kinds of trees and shrubs allowed to be added to plant life here are those indigenous to the valley. (A botanical survey was made for the Friends of the Wissahickon by Dr. John M. Fogg Jr. of the University of Pennsylvania in 1953.)

In Colonial times bears and wolves roamed freely. Then woods extended everywhere except where villagers had planted their kitchen gardens and orchards along main dirt roads. Today smaller creatures such as squirrels, chipmunks, woodchucks, rabbits, and raccoons still inhabit the Wissahickon Valley, and now and then a deer is seen. Pheasants are plentiful. The creek, once a haven for shad and catfish, is stocked with trout each spring for a turnout of eager fishermen.

Birds of the region in all their colorful variety have become better known to members and non-members alike through illustrated lectures and springtime "bird walks." Emphasis on bird life grew when the Wissahickon Bird Club merged with the Friends of the Wissahickon in 1945.

To help protect the park against willful acts of destruction, pamphlets on birds and trees have been distributed in the past along with "Save the Wildflower" posters. The map updated by the Friends in 1974 and the booklet *Guide to the Wissahickon Valley,* compiled by Frances Ballard and Marion Rivinus, are part of a continuing effort to combat the ever-present threat of public apathy.

Volunteers of all ages have helped remove litter and clear trails. Under supervision, Boy Scouts have eliminated scores of caterpillar nests and have planted trees. Children and young people from neighboring schools and day camps visit the park regularly to explore the world of nature.

Each person is urged to do his or her part to keep "urban wilderness" wild for all to enjoy.

IN AN AGE OF CHANGE

Even in sheltered woodland there is change. Along with the rhythmic changes basic to natural processes in every season, there are changes effected by human beings — thoughtlessly or by plan.

Here certain changes have come about in this century only because Friends of the Wissahickon have pursued together their vision of what a park could be

Saving a Meadow

William Warner Harper's dream was to save a meadow. In 1927 the area to the north at Germantown and Northwestern Avenues where the stream entered the gorge was a dense tangle of underbrush and weeds. Surely this land of unrestricted private holdings should belong to the park!

Mr. Harper's wish to beautify the strategically located meadow was contagious. The Friends' Board of Directors gave Mr. Harper, a board member who lived at "Andorra House" near the land in question, full support in this endeavor. Their contribution of $10,000 in 1928 enabled a part of the land to be held until Fairmount Park could acquire the entire territory.

Several years later when Mr. Harper died, restoration of the area was not yet complete. The Friends resolved to fulfill this goal in his name. By June of 1935 plans for the area included paths, plantings of native shrubs and wildflowers, and a picnic grove.

After months of negotiation with the help of Dr. George Woodward, then senator in Harrisburg, the W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) agreed to provide the necessary labor, and state funds were appropriated. When at last a telegram from Senator Woodward brought the welcome news, the Friends of the Wissahickon were overjoyed.

On June 4, 1937, following their annual meeting the Friends gathered at Harper Meadow for a poignant ceremony of dedication. A shelter overlooking an attractive expanse of green was presented formally by

the Friends of the Wissahickon to Fairmount Park. The meadow had been transformed.

Today at Harper ("Harper's") Meadow you will find a rock placed near Germantown Avenue to mark a historic site. Carved on the rock are these words:

> The Reformed Church at Whitemarsh met here in the home of William Dewees from 1710 until he died in 1745. Across the road he built about 1710 the second paper mill in America.

(The stables nearby are used by the police. The oldest building was erected by John Sergeant Price for the Philadelphia Riders and Drivers Association, which ceased to meet when its members joined the Friends of the Wissahickon.)

Restoring an Inn

Valley Green is another place in the park that has received the Friends' special attention. At the end of Springfield Avenue stands the Valley Green Inn, its present building dating from 1850. It is believed that the earlier building that burned was here in pre-Revolutionary times. Inside the inn are displayed antiques collected by Samuel S. Fleisher, including glassware, kitchen and farm tools, and even old-fashioned ice-skates and a foot-warmer!

In front of the inn is a beautified area with a memorial walk dedicated to Anna Blakiston Day. (An elementary school in Mount Airy also bears the name of Mrs. Frank Miles Day, who was active for years in public education.)

A noteworthy change in the inn's management took place at a meeting held here on January 27, 1937. The building was formally transferred to the Friends' care by the Valley Green Inn Association, whose members were then added to the Friends. That evening Miss Frances Wister, an original member of the older association, recalled its beginning in 1901. When Mr. Charles W. Henry had urged that the inn be restored — it was badly in need of repair — the Valley Green Inn Association had been formed under the leadership of Miss Lydia Morris of the Morris Arboretum. (Along with Miss Morris, the *Guide to the Wissahickon Valley* also names Mrs. J. Willis Martin and Mrs. Charles Woodward as influential in the building's rescue.)

In those days light refreshments were offered, and ladies often came by for afternoon tea. Now even in the hush of falling snow on a winter night the old inn, brightly lighted, is alive with the conversation of dinner guests.

For the past eighteen years the inn has been under the able management of Mr. and Mrs. Gaspar Lopez, employed by the Friends. Since 1937 the Fairmount Park Commission as owner of the building has maintained its exterior while the Friends of the Wissahickon, Inc., has had full charge of the interior. Recent improvements made possible by Bicentennial funds and the Friends of the Wissahickon include up-to-date kitchen equipment and new tongue-and-groove oak flooring.

Celebrating Wissahickon Day

Every spring crowds of spectators visit Valley Green to view the pageantry of "Wissahickon Day," now occurring the last Sunday in April, rain or shine. This annual event, begun by the Philadelphia Riders and Drivers Association, was revived by the Friends in 1949 as a way of acquainting more people with the park. Horses and old-fashioned vehicles parade in style past Valley Green Inn and along the Carriage Drive. Picturesque carriages have journeyed from Baltimore, Maryland, and even from Canada for the occasion! Other horse shows held frequently at the Monastery Ring are sponsored by a newer organization called the Riders of the Wissahickon.

Responding to Nation-wide Emergency

In the early 1930's many families of Greater Germantown and Roxborough, as elsewhere, found themselves in severe economic distress. Men fully able to support dependents before the depression could no longer find work.

Fortunately park needs and the needs of local families could be met at one and the same time through projects of benefit to the whole community. Due to the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. George Woodward (of "Krisheim") and other Friends of the Wissahickon, more than three hundred fifty men were added to the Fairmount Park Commission's work force at various times during 1931 and 1932.

As Mrs. Day reported: "Beginning December 20 [1930] and continuing through January, February and March [1931], over 150 otherwise unemployed men were engaged in cutting down dead wood, cleaning out underbrush, and taking out driftwood and fallen logs from the bed of the Wissahickon." The salary for these and other tasks was $3.50 per day.

A letter dated March 6, 1931, sent by the Friends to local churches, urged people in Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill to buy wood at wood yards on Allens Lane and Rex Avenue. This would help men with families to remain at work cutting wood and clearing brush along the Wissahickon Drive.

The following year, according to the Finance Committee's January report, 180 men hired for three full days each week in two shifts at $3.25 per day were grading, and breaking stone for an extension of Cresheim Valley Drive from Germantown Avenue to Stenton Avenue. The report added, "Already over a thousand needy men from the neighborhood of Germantown, Chestnut Hill, and Roxboro have registered for work since the Cresheim Valley project was started." (In all, 211 men were employed for this project.)

Hiring was done through the Committee for Unemployment Relief at Germantown's Y.M.C.A. This service had begun through the concern of local ministers and businessmen.

Still another Friends'-sponsored project of the early 1930's was the draining of the morass in Cresheim Valley that had once been "Lake Surprise." Marshland became inviting open green space, luring picnickers to this day.

In 1935 the W.P.A. took charge of the continuing unemployment problem. By May of 1938, W.P.A. workmen had improved the Valley Green Inn building, completed Harper Meadow, and extended bridle trails along both sides of the creek.

More Milestones —
and Growing Environmental Concerns

When the park's landscape gardener, Samuel Newman Baxter, died in 1945, the Friends of the Wissahickon lost a friend of many years. They decided to remember him by planting trees at Cresheim Valley Drive and Germantown Avenue. By fall, 1947, the Baxter Memorial Grove was completed with twenty-five dogwoods and over one hundred hemlocks. (Mr. Baxter as a young man had worked for well-known Mount Airy nurseryman Thomas Meehan before becoming the Fairmount Park Commission's arboriculturist.)

Another memorial, the Harvey M. Watts Fund of 1940, was established for the purpose of purchasing more land where the park was most narrow in order to preserve the fresh water springs that fed the stream.

Concern about water pollution grew. In June, 1949, the Board expressed strong hope that the park could be extended along the Upper Wissahickon Valley from Northwestern (City Line) Avenue as far as Fort Washington to protect historic sites of Revolutionary fame and to help purify the creek.

Today an ally of the Friends in active pursuit of this goal is the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association or W.V.W.A. (begun in 1956, incorporated in 1958).* Their Green Ribbon Park program aims to secure for public recreational use a "green ribbon" of land in Montgomery County along both banks of the Wissahickon from its headwaters to Philadelphia's city line. Currently every effort is being made to add those lands not already protected.

At least once a year, in cooperation with the W.V.W.A., LaSalle College tests the creek's waters. Although the Wissahickon is not clean enough for drinking or even swimming, pollution is less than it was fifteen or twenty years ago when non-biodegradable detergents were in use. Pollution should decrease further, according to the W.V.W.A., as sewage treatment plants are upgraded according to federal legislation of 1972. Meanwhile, Sandy Run, a major tributary that joins the Wissahickon Creek in Whitemarsh Township, continues to be a main source of contamination.

A milestone in the fight for purer water was Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law of 1937, amended in 1970. This law safeguards streams and the life within them not only from pollution but also from silt washing into the water from building sites.

Increasing construction at the park's borders with all the attendant dangers spurred the city's passage of the Wissahickon Watershed Ordinances on April 11, 1975. The impetus for their enactment came from the "Save the Wissahickon Committee," led by Dorothea (Mrs. Vincent) Persichetti. Of immediate concern was the pressure from developers at Henry Avenue and Wise Mill Road threatening Valley Green.

The ordinances are based on a state- and city-sponsored environmental study of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed within the city limits, completed in 1973. (A similar study was completed for the Montgomery County portion of the watershed in 1971.) Guidelines focus on the use of steep or sloping land and also "flood plains" (low ground) for construction purposes and particularly on problems resulting from water runoff, such as flooding, erosion, and damage to forest plant life. Restricted in area are streets, sidewalks, parking lots, and any other kind of ground cover keeping rain from soaking naturally into the soil. At present this legislation applies only to eleven square miles within the city.

In spite of ordinances, residential development near parkland continues and with it the need to keep a watchful eye. Building on nearby territory has already significantly lowered the Wissahickon's water level. Formerly there was more possibility of seeing the valley by boat — by rowboat as well as canoe.

Once people stopped to drink at numerous open springs here, including the drinking fountain with the Latin inscription "Pro Bono Publico," built in 1854 north of Valley Green. However, in the late 1950's the purity of the water could no longer be trusted and all the springs in the park were closed to public use.

Along with the problems inevitable in an age of change, there are some noteworthy steps forward that renew our hope for the Wissahickon Valley's future.

The park has won national recognition. In 1975 the Wissahickon Valley was named a National Recreational Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Through the efforts of Judge Harold D. Saylor, the valley was named a Registered Natural History Landmark by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service in 1964 and was added in 1972 to the National Register of Historic Places along with the rest of Fairmount Park. *Local* recognition is evidenced by the many riders, bicyclers, joggers, and explorers of all ages seen along the Carriage Drive.

Volunteers work to improve the condition of the park under the Fairmount Park Commission's guidance through the newly formed Wissahickon Rebuilding Project, led by Dustin Del Grande.** Initial efforts focus on litter removal and the rebuilding of fences and guard houses.

The park keeps on growing. Recent land acquisitions made possible by a long-time friend of the park, Mrs. L. M. C. Smith, are on the west side of the creek both north and south of Bell's Mill Road.

History lives! One aspect of the area's early history comes alive for visitors with the restoration of two William Rittenhouse houses through Bicentennial funding. Now for the first time the public can see the interiors of the Rittenhouse Cottage (circa 1707-1713) and the even older one-room house built about 1690.

The Fairmount Park Commission envisions the recreating of the Rittenhouse paper mill (on the site of the second mill of 1701), but at the present time funds for this project are lacking.

*Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Inc.
12 Morris Road
Ambler, Pa. 19002

**Wissahickon Rebuilding Project
3835 Cresson Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19127

(see next page)

A QUESTION OF SURVIVAL

What is the future of an urban woodland park? No one knows for sure. Concern about our environment is widespread, yet everywhere are evidences of human carelessness.

Twenty years ago Friends' secretary E. Perot Walker declared that the care of the Wissahickon Valley is a huge and continuing task of "conservation, preservation, protection from vandals, fires, would-be improvers, modernizers and road builders. Everyone should enter into it wherever they may live if they have ever heard of our work."

The Wissahickon's many friends continue to believe there is hope for wilderness parkland as long as people care.

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"Everyone who enjoys the natural beauty of the Wissahickon Valley is invited to become a member of the Friends of the Wissahickon"
— Sign on the wall of Valley Green Inn



Germantown Wagon

The Wissahickon in Tapestry

By MARGARET BACON BOSTWICK

Back in the corner of the "Quilt and Sampler" room in The Howell House hangs a small sampler. It is the only known sampler of the Early Wissahickon Creek. It was made by Anne Wilson in 1840 when she was nine years of age.

This sampler is very much faded but when seen from a distance the colors harmonize. The red building near the left end of a two-arched bridge is the old Robeson's Mill, then on Ridge Avenue.

A flight of steps goes close to the water between the Lombardy poplars. At the bottom right-hand is a boat with a rower on a much faded creek. In the lower middle stands a small house on a spit of land.

Although the tapestry is very simple, it shows the concern for the creek in a nursery of ninety years ago.

> The late Dr. Cornelius Weygandt, a well known Germantown author, wrote the much quoted "Wissahickon Hills" in 1929, which is a delight for all to read who love the Valley of the Wissahickon.

Balloon Party a Great Success

The beautiful garden of the Deshler-Morris House was the setting June 12th for the Germantown Historical Society's Annual Party. Mrs. Knowlton D. Montgomery was on hand to comment on and answer questions about the restoration and maintenance of this unusually charming garden, which she designed, planted and lovingly cares for.

To celebrate an historic 1793 balloon flight by Frenchman Pierre Blanchard, 150 guests released helium-filled balloons with specially prepared questionnaires attached. At this writing, to our delight, three balloons have been found, all in the New Jersey Coastal area.

Many visited the interesting interior of this important house (Mrs. James Bishop, our hostess, is Chairman of Deshler-Morris Women's Committee) and with the full cooperation of the weather, everyone had a delightful time.

Please notify Mrs. James Bishop (VI 9-0732) should *you* receive a reply to *your* questionnaire. Prizes will be awarded to those members whose balloons have been found.

Henry W. Johnson
Chairman — Meetings

Tulpehocken Street and the Founding of Christ Church, Germantown

By MARK F. LLOYD

This is second of a two-part article (first appeared in Spring, 1977). Full footnotes, indicated by small figures in both parts are included in this issue. Editor

The Anglo-Catholic Movement placed a great deal of emphasis upon the broad catholicity of the Church, upon fidelity to the Prayer Book, upon the historic episcopate and the authority of the Bishop, upon observing proper ritual in administering the Sacraments. The Evangelical/Low Churchmen placed a great deal of emphasis upon the great Protestant doctrines of preaching and the rebirth of Christian life. The Evangelical was ecclesiastically nonchalant, interested rather in simplicity in their worship services. Solid preaching, daily good living, and regular contributions to benevolent societies were his bread and butter. The Evangelical/Low Churchman saw the conflict with the Anglo-Catholic as a clash which pitted their essential Protestant heritage against the incursion of Roman Catholic corruptions. Vested choirs, candlesticks on the altar, clergy dressed in surplices were all seen as tragic regression towards Rome. It is true that it was the Anglo-Catholics who were trying to do the converting and hence it was the Anglo-Catholics who felt persecuted and not vice-versa. But over the years the Anglo-Catholic Movement was extremely successful in the Protestant Episcopal Church, successful both ritually and theologically. In the present day the vast majority of the innovations originally proposed during this period by the Anglo-Catholic Movement have been generally accepted. But not so in the early years of Christ Church.

Several of the men who made up the original vestry of Christ Church were committed to the ideas of the Evangelical/Low Church faction of the Episcopal Church. Several of them, most notably John B. Champion, would openly declare that Christ Church was "got up as a Low Church"[57] or, as has been pointed out, in the interest of "Evangelical Religion." This stance on the part of apparently most of the original vestry was adamantly reinforced by Charles Le Boutillier and Thomas Powers. A clear majority of the leaders of Christ Church classified themselves as steadfast Evangelical/Low Churchmen. The great difficulty in this was that the Protestant Episcopal Church in America was inexorably turning in the direction of the Anglo-Catholic Movement. Thus the kindling was laid for a future fire, a fire which, when ignited, would burst into a roaring conflagration. When that catastrophe struck Christ Church twenty years after its founding, the parish almost collapsed under the strain. But that is a topic for another time. For in 1852 all was peace and harmony under the Low Church banner.

In the meantime Beekman Potter, himself, wrote the charter of the church[58] and on April 15, 1853 the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court granted the charter of incorporation.[59] Officially recognized by the state, Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Germantown was admitted to union with the Diocesan Convention on May 20, 1853.[60] Now, at last, the church was reality. And perhaps those who celebrate the anniversary of the church might begin their year on June 15 and end it on May 20. But in 1853 Christ Church had yet to hurdle the most formidable barrier: there was no building to house the congregation.

It is important at this point to bring back in mind all the family and business ties discussed at the outset above. It was these ties that came together to provide what proved to be the decisive impetus in building the Christ Church edifice. Soon after he had come to Germantown, intent upon initiating a new Episcopal church, Beekman Potter had entreated with John Fallon for a contribution of land to the new church.[61] Fallon was receptive to the matter. As a vestryman at St. Mark's in Philadelphia he was a serious churchman himself and his wife, through her Johnson and Morris heritage, was imbued with a strong sense of liberality where the Protestant Episcopal Church was involved. The matter was decided very quickly, perhaps even before the organizational meeting of June 15, 1852, because in its very first announcement of the Christ Church movement the *Germantown Telegraph* on September 29, 1852 stated that the church would be located on Tulpehocken Street on land donated by John Fallon.[62] There can be little doubt that this gift of land was a crucial factor in getting Christ Church off the ground, so to speak. Twenty years later it was still the opinion of Beekman Potter that "but for this most generous donation, years would have elapsed before a building known as Christ Church could have been erected in Germantown."[63] That this gift of land by John and Susan Fallon was very much a part of the value system of the extended Fallon/Johnson/Morris family was to be proven just six years later. At that time Susan Fallon's aunt, Miss Elizabeth C. Morris, made a gift of the land which was to be used by St. Michael's P. E. Church on High Street above Baynton.[64] Thus the same family provided all the land, and with it, the original building impulse for both the parent churches of present-day Christ Church

and St. Michael's. It is solid testimony to the deep sense of benevolence so many well-to-do men and women of the nineteenth century felt towards the institutional church.

The land given to Christ Church stretched one hundred feet along Tulpehocken Street and over two hundred twenty feet along McCallum.[65] Armed with the possession of such an attractive site, those soliciting contributions for the church edifice itself found that pledges were readily forthcoming, often of even larger amounts than had been anticipated. Accordingly a building committee was formed, composed of the following five men:

John B. Champion
Phineas E. Hamm
Charles Le Boutillier
Thomas H. Powers
Theodore S. Williams[66]

Though there remains today no specific evidence, it seems likely that John Champion was the chairman for this committee. As the Accounting Warden for the church he was necessarily close to the entire fundraising and contracting operation. And both he and Dr. Williams were very close to Beekman Potter and among the very earliest and most active adherents of the Christ Church movement. No doubt the earnestness of Phineas Hamm won him a place on the committee, not to mention the many contacts he most certainly enjoyed both in the city and at the well-endowed St. Luke's Church of Germantown. Finally it is here on the building committee that the new found strength of Charles Le Boutillier and Thomas Powers reveals itself. These two men were to contribute a great deal, both of time and of money, to the erection of the new building.

The building committee employed an architect (who, most unfortunately, is unknown) and on August 17, 1853 the *Germantown Telegraph* disclosed that the contract had just then been let out for construction.[67] On October 21, 1853 the Fallons signed over the deed to the land and construction began in earnest.[68] In May, 1854 Bishop Alonzo Potter laid the cornerstone of the building and by the first Sunday in October (October 1) the construction had advanced to the point where the congregation could worship in the basement of the church.[69] On May 16, 1855 the *Germantown Telegraph* announced that the building "is verging on completion"[70] and that "the church will be opened formally for worship, on Sunday, the 27th inst."[71] This original building was "of gray Chestnut Hill stone and measured sixty-two feet (on Tulpehocken) and eighty-five feet (along McCallum). It fronted on Tulpehocken Street and had a steeple which ascended about one hundred eighty feet from the sidewalk. Adjoining the church at the rear was a two story building, containing rooms for parish purposes, and a large room for the Sunday school."[72] Meanwhile, soon after construction had begun, the vestry began the process of electing a rector. In May, 1854 a call went out to the Rev. Addison B. Atkins and in July he began his work.[73] Atkins was apparently an able man, because later he would be credited with not only maintaining a smooth flow of church activities during this period, but also expediting the work of construction of the church edifice.[74] Finally on Sunday, May 27, 1855 the church was opened for public worship. The *Germantown Telegraph* proudly proclaimed "that Christ Church is fully inaugurated as one of the leading places of worship in Germantown."[75] One more note of interest: on January 1, 1857 the parsonage at 59 West Tulpehocken Street was acquired.[76] Christ Church, Germantown was whole.

Beekman Potter's dream had come true. From neighborhood recruiting to organizational meeting to the first regular services and a Sunday school to the procurement of a charter and admission to the Diocese to the reception of a gift of land and the erection of an edifice to the calling of a rector and the acquisition of a rectory — this was the step by step climb to a full fledged church. In a day when church preservation and maintenance chore enough and church erection almost unheard of, many people are not able to know or appreciate the strength and dedication which the successful completion of a project of the magnitude of Christ Church requires. Perhaps even more unfortunate is the inability of many today to share in the enormous sense of pride and accomplishment which accompanies the final conclusion of such an undertaking. But not so for Beekman Potter. On July 10, 1857 Christ Church, Germantown, free of debt and whole in every way, was formally consecrated.[77]

In preparing the foregoing account the writer would wish to acknowledge and thank the Rev. Ronald L. Reed, Rector of Christ Church and St. Michael's, Dr. William Arnold, Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Leonard Denis, Librarian of the Germantown Historical Society, for their encouragement and assistance without which this work would not have been possible.

Mark F. Lloyd (1977)

Footnotes covering Part I and Part II

1) Edward W. Hocker, *Germantown, 1683-1933* (Germantown: Published by the Author, 1933), pp. 163-73 for a discussion of the establishment of the railroad in Germantown.

2) John F. Watson, *Annals of Philadelphia,* III vols. (Philadelphia: Leary, Stuart & Co., 1927 edition of the 1857 original), Vol. II, p. 605.

3) Watson, *idem.*

4) Hocker, *ibid.*, pp. 209-11 for all dates on the laying out of new streets in Germantown during this period, but note p. 217 for the date of Wayne Ave.

5) For Fallon's position in Philadelphia see the 1850 edition of McElroy's *City Directory,* entry for John Fallon, and same source, entry for Fallon & Serrill, attorneys-at-law. For all the biographical material which follows on John Fallon see the *Philadelphia Inquirer,* Friday, September 11, 1885, p. 2, "Obituary — John Fallon." Available at the Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, on microfilm in the newspaper department.

6) Samuel F. Hotchkin, *Germantown, Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill* (Philadelphia: P. W. Ziegler & Co., 1889), pp. 320-4 for solid information on Tulpehocken Street and the Johnson family tree. See pages 320 and 322 for specific references to the Fallon-Johnson marriage.

The sixty-one acre figure is given in the deed which conveyed the land to John and Susan Fallon July 30, 1850. See Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book GWC.54.489, etc.

7) The family genealogy is given in Hotchkin, *ibid.*, p. 323. The Philadelphia Department of Records supplies the following information:

Germantown Deed Book, pages 259-60, April 1, 1697	Arnold Cassell to Aret Klincken, the first of his family.
Philadelphia Register of Wills Aret Klincken, 1707/8	Aret Klincken, by Last Will & Testament, to his son, Anthony.
Philadelphia Deed Book D.22.84, etc. November 29, 1743	Anthony Klincken to his son-in-law, John Johnson.
Philadelphia Register of Wills	John Johnson to his son, Anthony Johnson.

John Johnson, 1794	
Philadelphia Deed Book JH.7.417, etc.	Anthony Johnson to his son, Justus Johnson.
March 13, 1823	
Philadelphia Register of Wills	Justus Johnson, in equal parts, to his five children.
Justus Johnson, 1847	
Philadelphia Deed Book GWC.20.299, etc.	Abby W. Johnson, widow of Justus Johnson, Luke M. Johnson, Anne M. Johnson, Anthony M. Johnson, Susan E. Fallon, and Charles W. Johnson to John S. Littell (Abby's brother-in-law).
September 6, 1849	
Philadelphia Deed Book GWC.54.489, etc.	John S. Littell to John Fallon.
July 30, 1850	

8) *Philadelphia Inquirer, idem.*

9) Hotchkin, *ibid.*, pp. 142-7, for an excellent account of this branch of the famous Philadelphia family.

10) Hotchkin, *ibid.*, p. 81; and pay a visit to this rather remarkable church some time and see this window and some others of equal beauty.

11) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book TH.8.549, etc., John Fallon and his wife, Susan, to Christopher Fallon, October 27, 1851.

12) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book JAH.25.267, etc., Abby W. Johnson, *et al*, to Theresa Donath, June 23, 1869. This is a fascinating document, full of all sorts of details on the "Queen's House." That the money used was capital supplied by the regent Queen is corroborated by William H. Emhardt, "Reminiscences," *Germantowne Crier* Vol. 26, No. 3 (Summer, 1974), pp. 89-90.

13) On Anna Johnson, widow of Luke, see entry in McElroy's *City Directory*, edition of 1861. Her marriage to Luke Johnson is also noted in the Phila-Deed Books cited above, Deed Book GWC.20.229 (footnote #7) and Deed Book JAH.25.267 (footnote #12).

14) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book JAH.25.267, etc. (footnote #12, above).

15) Emhardt, *idem.*, and Hocker, *ibid.*, p. 218, for water prior to 1850.
Hotchkin, *ibid.*, pp. 327-9 for a detailed history of the water works.
Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book LRB.178.54, etc., Germantown Water Company, *et al*, to the City of Philadelphia, May 7, 1866, for much additional information including date of incorporation in 1851.
Germantown Telegraph, Wednesday, May 21, 1851, p. 3; Wednesday, August 20, 1851, p. 3, for establishing the timetable of the progress of construction. The only complete set of the *Germantown Telegraph* known to the present writer is available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

16) See entry for Beekman Potter in McElroy's *City Directory*, Germantown Appendix, in 1853, 1854 and in main body of directory in 1859.

17) United States Bureau of the Census, *Population Schedules*, 1850 Census, Microfilm Reel #812, South Ward of Philadelphia, p. 182. Available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

18) See entry for Beekman Potter in 1850, 1851, 1852 editions of McElroy's *City Directory.*

19) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Abstract 50 N 1, #45; see also G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Germantown, Twenty-Second Ward, City of Philadelphia*, 1871.

20) For the genealogy of the Potter family see Charles E. Potter, *Genealogies of the Potter Families of America* (Philadelphia: 1888), Chapter Ten, Descendents of Robert Potter; on the importance of the family in nineteenth century America see E. Digby Baltzell, Philadelphia Gentlemen (Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press, 1958), pp. 231-2.

21) See *Answer on Behalf of the Rector to the Statement of the Vestry of Christ Church*, a booklet dated February 29, 1872 (Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1872), pp. 35-9, for this and other details of the origin of Christ Church as written by Beekman Potter in 1872.

22) Charles H. Arndt, D.D., *Historical Sermon of Christ Church, Germantown*, (Philadelphia: Elliott & Co., 1927), pp. 1-2.

23) Potter, *Answer*, pp. 37-8.

24) Arndt, *ibid.*, p. 2, for this and other information on the organizational meeting of Christ Church.

25) *Idem.*

26) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Abstract 50 N 3, #32, plus Deed Book ADB.21.9, etc., Christopher and John Fallon to Alexander S. Robinson and Beekman Potter, April 1, 1857; see also D. J. Lakes and S. N. Beers, *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: J. E. Gillette & Co., 1861), at the City Archives, Paley Library, Temple University, which is a property atlas of Philadelphia including Germantown.

27) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Abstract 50 N 3, #20, #67, and #32.

28) See "History of Christ Church, Germantown," pp. 7-10, of *The Register of Episcopal Churches in Philadelphia*, compiled by Tony Roth and available in the Reading Room at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Roth has compiled a folio-sized book of photocopied histories which appeared in the *Church Standard*, a publication of the Episcopal Church, in 1898 and 1899. This is the earliest independent history of Christ Church known to the present writer and much of its information is used here, including the names of the first vestry of Christ Church.

29) See a.) Entry for Thomas Earp, Jr. in 1859 edition of McElroy's *City Directory.*
b.) Philadelphia Register of Wills, Thomas Earp, #797, 1872.
c.) Hotchkin, *ibid.*, pp. 445-7, for tie at St. Paul's.

30) See entry for Benjamin G. Godfrey, 1853 edition of McElroy's *City Directory.* Godfrey must have been a rather young man, because he was the only member of the original vestry to survive into the twentieth century, or so the history of the Tony Roth, ed., *Episcopal Churches*, p. 7.

31) See entry for Edwin W. Lehman in 1853 and 1854 editions of McElroy's *City Directory;* also Philadelphia Register of Wills, Edwin W. Lehman, #1672, 1895.

32) See entry for Alfred R. Potter in 1854 edition of McElroy's *City Directory,* where his house is on Filbert Street, and 1859 edition of McElroy's, where he is living on 17th Street above Arch; see also Philadelphia Register of Wills, Alfred R. Potter, #1103, 1881, and Charles E. Potter, *Genealogies of the Potter Families of America*, at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

33) See entry for George M. Troutman, 1854 and 1859 editions of McElroy's *City Directory;* also entry for the Western Savings Bank in both editions, in Appendix at rear.

34) Hotchkin, *ibid.*, p. 354.

35) Hotchkin, *ibid.*, p. 279.

36) Potter, *ibid.*, p. 36.

37) Potter, *ibid.*, p. 38. For the above named facts on the life, occupation, and residence of Phineas E. Hamm, see the 1853 edition of McElroy's *City Directory,* Germantown Appendix; McElroy's 1854 edition, Philadelphia entries; McElroy's 1854 edition, Germantown Appendix; also, Philadelphia Register of Wills, Phineas E. Hamm, #37, 1861.

38) See entry for John B. Champion in 1844 through 1850 editions of McElroy's *City Directory;* note his absence in 1851 and 1852 editions; note his address in the Germantown Appendix to the 1853 edition, the first edition in which Germantown entries are included. Compare this with Lakes and Beers, *Map*, of 1861 and Hopkins, *Atlas*, of 1871.

39) Arndt, *ibid.*, p. 2.

40) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Abstract 50 N 1, #8, for Tulpehocken Street tie. Note that the owner of the Tulpehocken Street property, John C. Scott, was also a witness to Chas. L. Scott's will, Philadelphia Register of the Wills, Charles L. Scott, #338, 1880. John C. Scott was his son. Note also the letterhead of the paper on which Scott wrote his will: "Chas. L. Scott, Manufacturer of Cocoanut Macaroons, etc., Agent for Dake Bakery, Chicago." Finally note entry for Scott in 1854 edition of McElroy's *City Directory,* Germantown Appendix, and in 1859 edition of same publication.

41) See entry for Theo. S. Williams, M.D. in 1853 edition of McElroy's *City Directory,* Germantown Appendix, and in 1855 and 1856 editions of the same publications.

42) See first: Charles E. Potter, *ibid.*, noting children of Sheldon Potter, #607 of Chapter Ten;
then: Philadelphia Register of Wills, Eliza Ann Potter, #407, 1889, where Daniel M. Robinson is named as her deceased brother.
then: Philadelphia Register of Wills, Daniel M. Robinson, #105, 1874, where Charles W. Robinson is named this man's brother and Executor.
then: Philadelphia Register of Wills, Charles W. Robinson, #376, 1877, where Caroline M. Robinson is named this man's sister.
then: back to Philadelphia Register of Wills, Alexander S. Robinson, #23, 1870, where the same Caroline M. Robinson is named this man's sister also! This proves that Alexander, Caroline, Charles, Daniel, and Eliza were brother and sister.
U.S. Bureau of the Census, *idem.*, proves that Eliza Ann Robinson Potter was younger than her brother, Alexander.

43) See entry for C. W. Robinson in 1859 edition of McElroy's *City Directory;* see also Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Abstract 50 N 3, #50.

44) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book ADB. 21.9, etc. See also Gopsill's *City Directory* for 1868-9. Note same address for both men in that edition of the directory. Earlier directories do not give numbered addresses.

45) *Answer on Behalf of the Rector*, pp. 4-5.

46) For this and other information used here on this stage of the church's growth, see Potter, *Answer*, pp. 36-8..

47) Roth, ed., *Episcopal Register*, p.7; Hotchkin, *ibid.*, p. 164, for the date.

48) See entry for Charles Le Boutillier in 1853 edition of McElroy's *City Directory*, city listings.

49) All biographical information presented here is taken from the Philadelphia *Public Ledger*, July 7, 1890, page 2, an Obituary. Microfilm at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

50) See Hopkins, *Atlas of Germantown*, 1871.

51) See entry for Thomas H. Powers in 1853 edition of McElroy's *City Directory*, city listings.

52) Baltzell, *ibid.*, pp. 97-8, for this history of the manufacturing firm.

53) Hotchkin, *ibid.*, pp. 354 and 279.

54) Philadelphia Register of Wills, Thomas H. Powers, #860, 1878. The opening paragraph of Powers' will is a very unusual statement on theology and religion.

55) Arndt, *ibid.*, p. 1.

56) The following discussion of theological struggle and division in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the nineteenth century is based on many sources, the most influential of which were conversations with Dr. William Arnold, Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania, on Sunday, February 20, 1977 and with Rev. Ronald L. Reed, Rector of Christ Church and St. Michael's, on successive Wednesdays, February 9 and 16, 1977. See also J. Wesley Twelves, D.D., *A History of the Diocese of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Diocese of Pennsylvania, 1969), pp. 25-6.

57) Champion, *Answer on Behalf of the Rector,* p. 5.

58) Potter, *Answer,* p. 38; see also Arndt, *ibid.*, p. 2.

59) Arndt, *ibid.*, p. 3; Roth, ed., *ibid.*, p. 7.

60) Arndt, *idem.;* Roth, ed., *idem.*

61) Potter, *Answer,* pp. 38-9, for the narrative on the effort to persuade Fallon to make a free gift of the land. Note however, that Potter distorts the actual sequence of events, that he implies that Fallon's gift was won only *after* an effort to raise money for the erection of a church building was begun. The account in the *Germantown Telegraph* (footnote #62, below) disproves Potter's implication. Fallon's promise of a gift of land occurred well before even the earliest work towards construction.

62) *Germantown Telegraph,* Wednesday, September 29, 1852, p. 3; available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP).

63) Potter, *Answer,* p. 39.

64) Hotchkin, *ibid.*, pp. 144 and 152; Twelves, *ibid.*, p. 176.

65) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book TH. 120.156, etc., Christopher Fallon, *et al,* to the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Christ Church, Germantown, October 21, 1853; also Deed Abstract, 50 N 3, #47.

66) Arndt, *ibid.*, p. 3; Hotchkin, *ibid.*, p. 164; Roth, ed., *ibid.*, p. 7.

67) *Germantown Telegraph,* Wednesday, August 17, 1853, p. 3; available at HSP.

68) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Book TH. 120.156, etc.; also Deed Abstract, 50 N 3, #47. See footnote #65, above. Arndt, *ibid.,* says that construction began "in the winer of 1853-54," but it seems hardly likely that excavations for the cellar could have begun after the ground had frozen. Probably August, September or October was the true starting date of construction.

69) On the laying of the cornerstone see the *Germantown Telegraph,* Wednesday, April 12, 1854, p. 3, which advertises April 15, 1854 as the date of the ceremony; Hotchkin, *ibid.,* p. 164, which states that the ceremony took place on May 15, 1854; and Arndt, *ibid.,* p. 4, which states that the ceremony took place on May 25, 1854; and Roth, ed., *ibid.,* p. 7, which says simply, May, 1854. The month of May at least seems to be the favorite.

On the opening of the basement, the Lecture Room, for public worship, see the *Germantown Telegraph,* Wednesday, September 27, 1854, p. 3; Arndt, *ibid.,* p. 4; Hotchkin, *ibid., p. 164; Roth, ed., ibid.,* p. 7. Surprisingly, they all agree.

70) *Germantown Telegraph,* Wednesday, May 16, 1855, p. 3.

71) *Idem.*

72) Roth, ed., *ibid.,* p. 7, this account contains a good number of items not found elsewhere.

73) Arndt, *ibid.,* p. 4, for both dates; Hotchkin, *ibid.,* p. 164, for the July date.

74) *Germantown Telegraph,* Wednesday, May 16, 1855, p. 3.

75) *Germantown Telegraph,* Wednesday, May 30, 1855, p. 3.

76) Philadelphia Department of Records, Deed Abstract 50 N 3, #48, George Chapple to "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Christ Church, Germantown;" an educated guess is that the church had been renting it from Chapple since engaging Atkins as Rector. In any case the actual purchase was not made until January 1, 1857.

77) Christ Church, Germantown was consecrated by Bishop Alonzo Potter, a fitting end to the venture he had encouraged upon his nephew more than five years earlier. See Hotchkin, *ibid.,* p. 164; Roth ed., *ibid.,* p. 7; and Arndt, *ibid.,* p. 4. Note also that some say July 9, 1857 and some July 10.

"Nothing Succeeds Like Success"

It is said the originators of this phrase were the doctors who witnessed first public use of sulphuric ether in a surgical operation in Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, October 16, 1846. The anesthesia worked. The doctors spoke. Eight years later Alexandre Dumas, the elder, quoted them in fiction, and the line took hold.

I Helped Make History — and I Am Only an "Object"

By SUE JOHANSEN

The decorative arts collection exhibited at the Connyingham-Hacker House includes examples of major 18th and early 19th century furniture styles. Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Federal. The earliest piece in the collection, however, provides an excellent starting point for any study of these later styles. The Ashmead table is an interesting folk adaptation of William and Mary furniture and reflects social and economic changes occurring in England and the American Colonies.

Seventeenth Century England's growing economy fostered the rise of the prosperous middle class. The restoration of Charles II to the throne (1660-1685), moreover, revived interest in the arts. New notions of comfort and indulgence were welcomed after the enforced ascetism of Cromwellian England. As leisure activities began to play a greater role in the lives of middle class bankers, tradesmen and merchants, furniture was produced to fulfill these specific needs. The emergence of individual tables for gaming, sewing, reading and tea-drinking, for example, are evidence of these changing social and economic patterns.

Increased Continental influences resulted from the accession of William and his wife Mary in 1702; the salient features of the furniture style which flourished during their reign are consistent with the lighter tenor of the times. French, Italian, Dutch and Oriental impulses are easily recognized in the scrolls and arches which replaced rigid, geometric patterns, greater use of color, caning, japanning and lacquering techniques used in the new designs.

Constructed around 1700, the Ashmead table reflects this new freedom of expression. Primarily made of walnut, the vase and ring turnings on the legs, unadorned table surface and pristine oval shape are common characteristics of William and Mary gateleg dining tables. Perhaps the most appealing feature of the Ashmead table, however, is the roughly carved heart-shaped motif which pierces the concealed drawer of the piece. All of these attributes make the Ashmead table one of the most interesting pieces in the Society's decorative arts collection.

Today the table fulfills two functions: it provides an appropriate display for Bibles associated with Colonial Germantown while unifying the decorative arts exhibited in the lower east room of the Connyingham-Hacker House. According to local tradition, however, the table played an unusually colorful role in early 18th Century Germantown. Used not only by the Ashmead family, this table was frequently carried to nearby Market Square where travelling Indians were served refreshments. Thus this old dining table can be considered not only a symbol of changing times, but of Germantown hospitality.

Notes on Germantown Borough

From Germantown Journal, January, 1928

Compared with the Germantown of today the borough of 1853 would seem a country village, and in reality it was not much more. We must not, however, look upon it as dull and lifeless, for the community was far from being asleep. A fair amount of business was carried on along its Main street, and many pretty residences were to be found in its side streets whose owners were daily engaged in the city, and brought to Germantown some of the city's activities.

Germantown, too, was steadily growing. In 1852 there had been erected within the borough ninety new buildings in all, and, the report states, "of much better quality than before." Price Street, for instance, opened only a few years earlier, had now twenty fine houses and several more were being built. Both gas and water pipe had been laid in it ready for service. In January 1853 the assessors gave the value of real estate as $1,426,788, while previous years had shown $1,067,595 for 1850, $1,150,137 for 1851, and $1,250,054 for 1852, thus making a gain throughout 1852 of more than $176,000—no mean increase for the times.

The borough approached the winter of 1852–'53 with many public improvements, and even innovations, completed or under way. The Germantown Railroad was double-tracking its line and had finished the section between the junction at 16th Street and the turnpike bridge (Wayne Junction) by the 24th of November. The Limekiln Turnpike had been reconstructed and on the 20th of October was completed from Branchtown to Jarrettown. Germantown Avenue was being curbed and repaved—the workmen at this time being engaged between Nagele's Hill and Kensington. The cost of the Logan Estate for their share of this work was said to have been between ten and twelve thousand dollars. Construction of the Plank Road from Willow Grove to Germantown (Mt. Airy Avenue)—chartered by the last Legislature —was started about December 1st. Within the town like activity was shown. In the preceding Spring the Germantown Water Co. had laid pipes on the Main Street from Washington Lane to Wister Street, and were ready for the water by the middle of May. Fire-plugs had been placed along the Main Street—400 feet apart—by November 1st, and it was the intention to erect lamp posts at the plugs. Birkenbine and Trotter had commenced building the Germantown Gas Works about the first of June, 1852, on the site adjoining the Armstrong property, north of the railroad above Duy's Lane, which the company had bought from Collom



Main Street at Manheim

and Brownholtz. On Friday evening, November 5th gas was introduced for the use of private consumers—the first time in Germantown.

A few months later—about February 1st—the Town Council ordered that Mill Street (Church Lane) should be graded, the sides curbed and the sidewalks paved, from Main Street to Township Line (Stenton Avenue), and a similar order was made for Harvey Street from Greene to Wayne, and for Greene Street from Rittenhouse to Harvey. Major Freas, the owner of the Germantown Telegraph, claimed to have worked hard for thirteen years to get Germantown's sidewalks curbed and paved. Before this was accomplished the sidewalks were practically impassable in the winter season.

During the early Fall a new schoolhouse had been built on Bringhurst Street under the direction of a committee of which Benjamin Lehman was Chairman. The corner-stone had been laid on July 8th, and dedicatory exercises were held at 3 P.M. on November 25, 1852, addresses being made by Alfred Crease of Roxborough, H. K. Smith of Chestnut Hill, and a Mr. Nathans of North Penn. This school is now the Wistar Annex of the Schaeffer School.

The new Baptist Church on Price Street held its first service—the basement only being usable—on October 31st. Its steeple was finished by the middle of January following, and subscriptions were asked to purchase a clock to put in it.

The Fellowship Engine Company, on September 20th, installed a new suction engine, made by Agnew. In the parade which celebrated the installation the engine was drawn by four gray horses and escorted by its own company, the Fairmount Company, the Columbia Company, the Franklin Hose, and the Germantown Hose, with the Germantown Band at the head. The new engine saw service at at least two large fires during the winter. At 11 P.M. on December 3d the fine residence on West Walnut Lane, owned by Robert B. Haines and occupied by Clement Tingley of Philadelphia, was entirely destroyed; and six weeks later—at 7 P.M. on January 15th, 1853—the barn of Dr. Treichel, at Linwood on School House Lane just beyond Wissahickon Avenue, suffered a similar fate. Two important fires had occurred only three weeks before the new engine was ready—the barn of Spencer Roberts, Church Lane east of Stenton Avenue, on August 31st, and the barn of William Wister, at Belfield on September 2d—both just over the line in Bristol.

The people of Germantown had always been much interested in horticultural and agricultural matters, probably inspired by the enthusiasm which Major Freas and his paper had unceasingly shown for the rural arts. At a Horticultural Fair held in early September, B. F. Leedom had exhibited Ballinger Butter Pears from one of a few French Butter trees—valued for 50 years—which had not been killed by a recent epidemic pest, and Joseph Green had displayed fine Seckels and had been awarded a prize for Chancellor pears. The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture held its Fair at Rising Sun on September 30th and October 1st, 1852. A number of prominent local people held committee positions. George Blight, of Devonshire Place, and Owen Sheridan, of Chestnut Hill, were on the committee for "Working Oxen," and Owen Sheridan was also on the committee for "Swine." Philip R. Freas and William Wister were on "Poultry"; John S. Haines was on "Agricultural Implements"; James S. Huber, of Silver Spring, and George Blight were on "Butter and Lard"; Charles F. Ashmead and Jacob Stadelman were on "Ploughing." The GERMANTOWN district thus was well represented. Less than two months later, at the Pennsylvania Poultry Show, Harmon Osler, a prominent Germantown tailor, took first prize for two white Shanghais, the cock weighing 11 pounds, the hen 9 pounds, and R. Fraley, who died a nonagenarian not many years ago, took first prize for gray Shanghais, or Chittagongs.

This short account of things in Germantown only three-quarters of a century ago, will show that the town had ceased to be a "Main Street" village and had begun to aspire to city comforts, and one wonders what it might have grown to be had it not, only eighteen months later, been absorbed into a great metropolis, where it lost its individuality and became but "a part of one stupendous whole."

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A PROBLEM IN DOUBLE ENTRY.

OUR cartoon contains not only moral suggestions, but some good "business points." A young boy is in the attitude of hesitating between two entries, the doors of a business college and the entrance to a saloon. A step to the right or to the left may settle his life destiny. On the steps of the business college are the commodities it supplies to prepare him for the practical work of life and the rewards that will follow persistent application. On the steps of a saloon are enumerated what it furnishes to help him on the downward road to ruin.

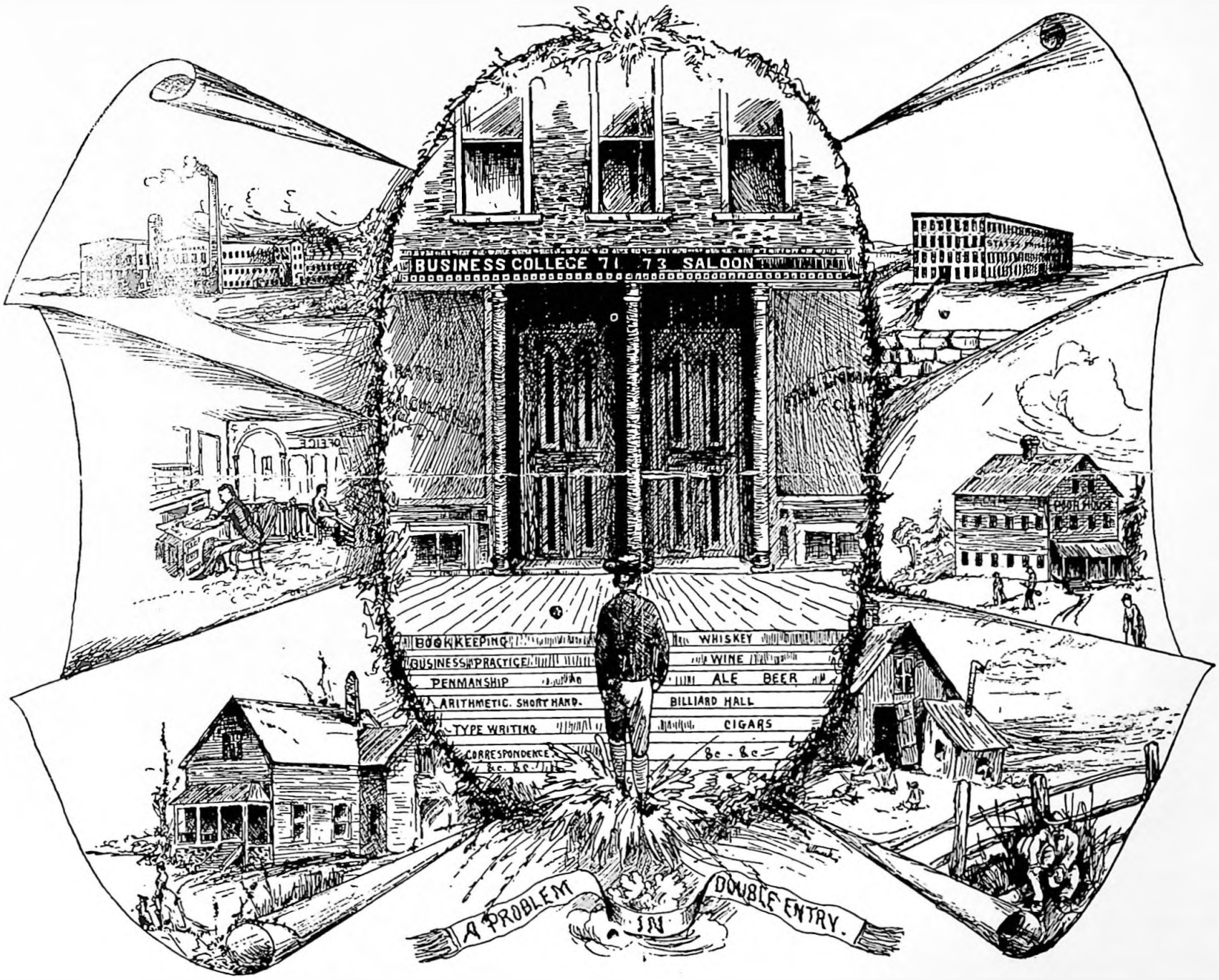
It is a double entry that confronts him—which one will he make? If he enters the saloon he will pass out to the occupancy of the wretched hovel depicted on the right, thence to the poor house. and it may be, terminate his wretched life inside the penitentiary. If he takes the left hand entry, and shows that he is fortified with industry, pluck and perseverance, by obtaining the honors of graduation he will shortly become the owner of a neat little home, shown in the vignette on the left; he will obtain a pleasant and lucrative situation in a business office, and finally take the place at the head of some large mercantile or manufacturing establishment.

Young man, this is not an imaginary picture. Every community in this land has undoubtedly furnished the facts that this sketch illustrates. In bookkeeping a wrong entry is sure to make trouble, and it is just as true that a wrong entry in the walks of life will lead to bad results, if not to failure and ruin. Make one entry and you debauch both body and mind; make the other entry and you strengthen the mind, preserve the body, and leave behind as your monument the record of great success. Consider this problem in double entry, and decide which you will make.

As the old year passes away we are accustomed to make good resolves for the new year that is about to dawn. The merchant takes account of stock to see how he stands financially. Those who have been wasting their opportunities make up their minds to turn over a new leaf with the incoming year.

A great number of young people in our city waste their leisure hours when they might be pursuing some study which would prove of great benefit to them in the business world. At our Business College we have ample facilities for young men and women to prepare for the great business of life.

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This advertisement or "flyer" was discovered among some old papers by a member of our Society, Dr. Geo. E. Stauffer, who thought it might be of interest to readers of the "Crier." I found no record of such a college or school so have no knowledge of its date. Editor.

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