# GERMANTOWNE CRIER



**GLORIA DEI—OLD SWEDES' CHURCH**
*By* F. E. LUMMIS, 1887
*See Story Page 114*

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 4 FORTY CENTS DECEMBER, 1968




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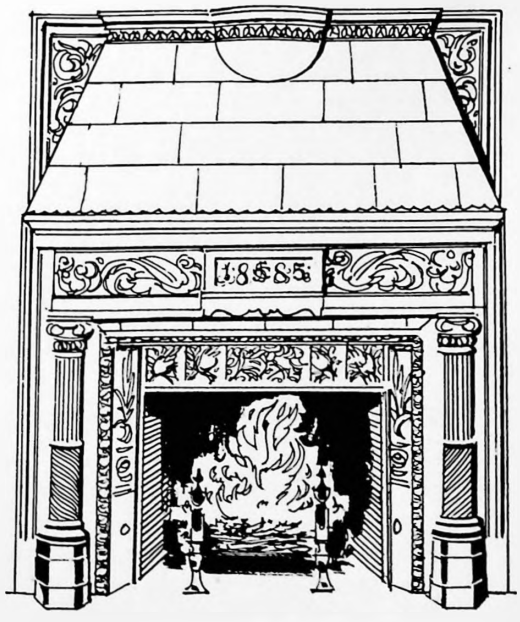
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The Germantown Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and promoting the cultural traditions of Germantown—through the preservation of historic landmarks; the maintenance of a museum of relics, a costume museum, and a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

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

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# GERMANTOWNE CRIER



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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thursday, January 16, 1969, 8:30 P.M.**

Aulenbach House, 29 W. Tulpehocken Street, Germantown

*Speaker:* Mr. James Massey

*Subject:* "Frank Furness, Philadelphia Architectural Genius."

Mr. Massey is head of the Division of Historic Buildings of the National Park Service.

**Thursday, February 20, 1969, 8:30 P.M.**

Trinity-Lutheran Church, Germantown Ave. and Queen Lane, Gtn.

*Speaker:* The Hon. Martin Moynihan

*Subject:* "Crossing the Alps—A Few Remarks on William Wordsworth."

Mr. Moynihan is the English Consul General for Philadelphia.

**Thursday, March 20, 1969, 8:30 P.M.**

Trinity-Lutheran Church, Germantown Ave. and Queen Lane, Gtn.

*Speaker:* Mr. Ervin R. Edgcomb

*Subject:* "The Glories of Greece and Istanbul."

Mr. Edgcomb is a recent President of the Geographic Society of Philadelphia.

This is a joint meeting with the Tower Fellowship.

**Thursday, April 17, 1969, 8:30 P.M .**

Trinity-Lutheran Church, Germantown Ave. and Queen Lane, Gtn.

*Speaker:* Miss Ellen K. Shaffer

*Subject:* "Pennsylvania Dutch Fraktur."

Miss Shaffer is head of the Department of Rare Books of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

**Thursday, June 5, 1969, 7:30 P.M.**

Germantown Historical Society Museum, 5214 Germantown Ave., Gtn.

Annual Garden Party, followed by a meeting in the parish hall of Trinity-Lutheran Church.

*Speaker:* (To be announced)

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

Mrs. Arthur E. Weil
3912 Netherfield Road
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## *A Map of*
# *Historic Germantown*
### *Designed by J. Riegel, Jr.*

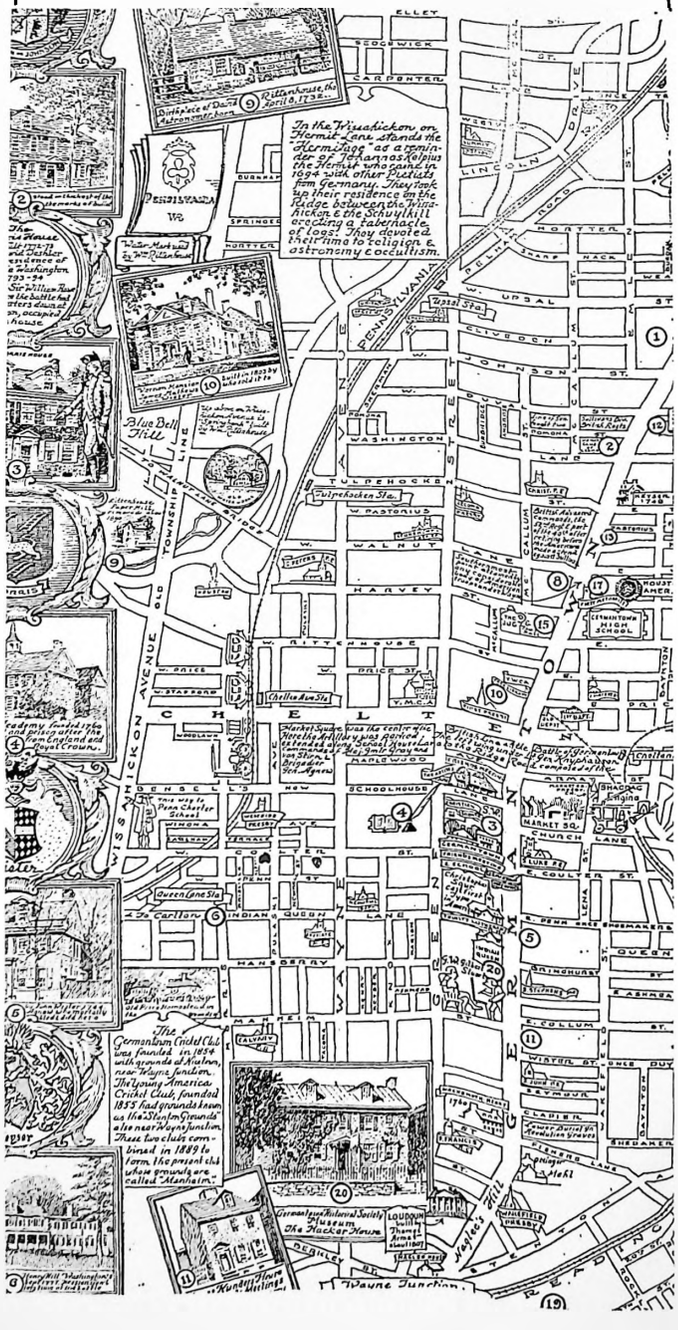
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# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

*By* JUDGE HAROLD D. SAYLOR

LAST year I reported that, with the restoration of the exterior, the Clarkson-Watson House at 5275-77 Germantown Avenue had taken on the appearance it had as a dwelling house in the late 18th century. The interior has not yet been restored but it is expected that work on such restoration will begin early next year when the required funds for the project will be in hand. As the work of our Costume Committee under Mrs. Ritter has outgrown the space available in the Bechtel House, we badly need the space in the Clarkson-Watson House.

The other eight houses owned by the Society are generally in good condition although painting, necessary in one or two of them, will have to be done in the near future. A recent gift of $2,000 by a foundation will go far in paying for a new roof on the Baynton House at 5208 Germantown Avenue which was acquired over ten years ago. At that time a crew of officers and managers of the Society supplied all the labor needed in putting a new roof on the rear wing of that building. Such a procedure is not possible for the roof on the main section of the house because of the nature of the materials to be used and also because the officers and managers are ten years older. All the more reason why younger men and women members should be added to our rolls.

The annual tour of old houses in Germantown was held on Saturday, May 18, 1968. The chairman of the committee, Dr. Venable and Mr. Ollinger, as heretofore, did a good job of organizing the tour and, with the help of many volunteers, gave a considerable amount of pleasure to the many who visited the houses and raised a substantial fund to add to the other revenues of the Society.

The entertainment at the members' meetings on the third Thursday of seven months of the year continued to be of a high order due to the painstaking efforts of Mr. Magaziner in procuring speakers. Future meetings, as in the recent past, will be held either at the parish house of Trinity-Lutheran Church or at Aulenbach House on West Tulpehocken Street.

Mrs. Paul E. Schlechter has kindly volunteered to assist Mr. Harris, Chairman of the Publications Committee, in his work as editor of the CRIER and, on his retirement at the end of the year, will carry on as editor thereafter. We are all most grateful to Mr. Harris for his generous gift of time, energy, and talent in getting out our fine magazine in the recent past and we regret that it is not possible for him to continue as editor. We welcome Mrs. Schlechter as his successor.

During the year Mr. Welthall resigned as Chairman of the Relics Committee. He was succeeded by Mrs. M. Bacon Bostwick, former chairman of the Toys and Textiles Committee. She now has charge of all the relics in the two museums and in the Von Trott Annex. We thank Mr. Welthall for his contribution to the work of the Society in succession to the late Thomas Von Trott.

Mrs. Norman P. Gentieu has succeeded Mr. Magaziner as Chairman of the Maxwell Mansion Committee which has been active in arranging gatherings at the old mansion and meetings planned to increase membership of the committee and to assist in the raising of funds with which to complete the restoration of the house.

The annual excursion, conducted on October 12th by Mr. Donahue, was taken by 38 persons who derived much pleasure from their trip to the City of Bethlehem where they visited the Central Moravian Church, the Moravian Museum, the Female Seminary, the Apothecary Shop, and the Kemerer Museum.

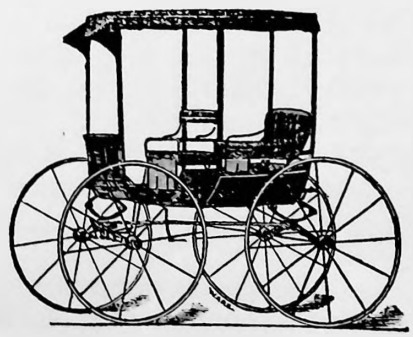
Mrs. Weil, Chairman of the Membership Committee, has continued valiantly her efforts to increase the Society's membership and has been very successful this past year.

At the annual meeting of the Society the officers were reelected and two new members of the Board of Managers were elected. They are, Mrs. Alfred M. North and Mr. John Staples. Miss Frances Hinton has been appointed Assistant Secretary in succession to Mrs. Prettyman.

Again many thanks are due to the other committee chairmen and the officers and managers of the Society for the help they gave me in making the past year a successful one.

HAROLD D. SAYLOR
*President*

October 31, 1968



# RECENT ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY

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*Chairman, Library Committee*

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By purchase
*Letters of Lydia Jane Clark, 1858-1936*
Gift of **The Newhall Family**
*History of the Church of the Brethern of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1708-1915)*
By purchase.
*Centennial Anniversary of the Founding of Germantown Academy*
Gift of **The Cincinnati Historical Society.**
*The Women of the American Revolution,* by Elizabeth F. Ellet
*Daily Stories of Pennsylvania,* by Frederic A. Godcharles.
Gifts of **The Germantown Chapter of the D. A. R.**
Diary of Elizabeth B. Morris
Two pocket chess boards
Photographs
Handwritten booklet, "Grumblethorpe."
Autograph Album of Elizabeth B. Morris (1861-63)
Gifts of **Dr. and Mrs. Curtis Wood, Jr.**
Some Puzzling Incidents in the *Life of Rudolph Herli*
*Christopher Sauer, Clockmaker,* a compilation by donor.
*The Ephrata Register,* a compilation by donor.
*The Jacob Graff House,* a compilation of newspaper clippings.
Gifts of **Herbert Harley.**
*Dr. Christopher Witt,* a compilation of material.
*The Neglee House,* a compilation of material.
*Christopher Sower and Son,* a magazine article by H. A. Brandt.
*Christopher Sauer in Germany,* a compilation.
*The Fleckensteins of Germantown,* a compilation.
Numerous newspaper clippings about Germantown
Gifts of **Herbert Harley**
*History of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. 1864-1964,* by Theodore G. Tappert.
Gift of **The Author.**
*The Historical Collection of The Insurance Company of North America, 1792-1967.*
Gift of **The Company.**
*Historical Manuscript Depositories in Pennsylvania*
Gift of **The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.**
*Pennsylvania Marriages Prior to 1810* (2 Vols.)
Gift of **Genealogical Publishing Co.,** through Edwin Iwanicki.
*Little Charlie Ross—The Shocking Story of America's First Kidnapping,* by Norman Zierold
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Gift of **The German Society of Pennsylvania.**
*Naval Documents of the American Revolution (3 Vols.).* by William Bell Clark.
Gift of **Capt. Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr.**
*History of Germantown,* by Dr. Keyser.
*Germantown Gardens and Gardeners,* by Dr. Jellett
*Lafayette's Visit to Germantown,* and other material on Germantown.
Gifts from **the estate of Anna Gorgas.**

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# REPORT OF THE RELICS COMMITTEE

MARGARET B. BOSTWICK
*Chairman, Relics Committee*

SINCE May the appearance of the period rooms on the first floor of the Museum has been improved by painting and laying rugs.

The insides of all the cases on the first floor of the Museum have been painted a light blue to liven the exhibits. The china has been cleaned and rearranged. The gun room was changed and the old gun room is now used for overflow and new acquisitions. Most of the silver has been cleaned and lacquered.

Excepting the addition of a Toys for Boys department, very little has been done to the Howell House. Several old kitchen utensils were given to us for the Von Trott Annex.

A fine set of Limoges china, table service, and some hand loomed linen were donated by Mrs. Emily Cooper of Rosemont. Mr. Adams kindly made a survey of our clocks. Miss Sylvia Heyl gave the Society a fine Terry shelf clock with wooden works which has been in the Heyl family for generations. We have, on "permanent loan," from the Germantown Chapter of the N.S.D.A.R., two pitchers, a celery holder, and two small trays, from families that lived in Germantown.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the Acquisition Book that contains data on numbers 950 to 1500, will they please speak up.

We have a few needs. A small chandelier is needed to complete the 1860 room in the museum. A knife box of the type that holds the knives upright would be greatly appreciated. The toy collection needs more Toys for Boys.

# HAPPENINGS IN GERMANTOWN
## October 1967 - October 1968

*By* PHOEBE CARLILE KIDDER

HEAT, cold, sunshine, and glorious balmy days all visit this part of the country sometime during the course of the year. Maybe the timing is not when expected, and is spoken of as "unseasonable," but nothing can be done about it.

As though to make up for all the rains of September, October, 1967, was all that could be desired. An encouraging way to start off our "Historical Year" with its many charitable events and tours of old houses.

The first big snow came the end of November, causing plenty of trouble on the icy hills, but fortunately it lasted only a few days. January, 1968, was the big snow and low temperature month, when the temperature never rose above the freezing mark for many days—in spite of which the joyful little taste of spring, which usually comes in January, did not fail us again this year.

It was a mixed up season. Winter was practically over by February—May weather came in April, and the April showers waited until May, but the beauties of spring were never lovelier. June had twice its normal amount of rain, followed by two hot summer months with many days of ninety degree temperature. The complaints are many, but all in all its a pretty nice section of the Delaware Valley in which to live.

### HISTORIC HOUSES

Something new has been added to The Germantown Historical Society—another museum. The Howell House, at 5218 Germantown Avenue, and next to the building that houses the Museum, has been purchased by the society through the generosity of Mr. Charles H. Woodward of Chestnut Hill. The house, built in 1770, has been repainted inside and out, and the roof repaired, and it is now used as a museum for toys and textiles.

An energetic committee of the Woman's Club of Germantown is endeavoring to restore the garden of the Johnson House at Washington Lane and Germantown Avenue. Through papers concerning the house, and books on the subject, the committee members have learned the kinds of flowers, herbs and shrubs that were there at the time of the Revolution.

The annual Christmas Tea held at the Deshler-Morris House was on Sunday, December 3rd. The charm of the old house was enhanced by the beautiful Christmas flower arrangements done by members of the Women's Committee, and the soft candlelight casting its shadows against the walls.

The annual card party was held April 22nd at Aulenbach House.

Grumblethorpe, at 5267 Germantown Avenue, has been going through a period of restoration. Built by John Wister in 1744, it has been open to the public for many years. The last few years have been spent in restoring the old kitchen. To celebrate this, a supper was held in the garden June 30th for the benefit of the restoration fund. It was a lovely affair, and the speaker, The Reverend W. Carter Merbreier, most interesting.

Ghosts were stalking the halls of the Maxwell Mansion at Greene and Tulpehocken Streets the evening of October 28th when a Halloween Party was in progress. There was fun for all who went to help swell the coffers of the committee for the old mansion.

On December 10th a Victorian Christmas party was held there. It was a Dickens afternoon, with excerpts read from his works by Mr. Howell J. Heany. Gifts and cards were obtainable in the "Old Curiosity Shop," and a wassail bowl provided refreshments.

On April 24th Mr. Calvin S. Hathaway gave a lecture, with slides, on the Victorian furniture suitable for the Maxwell House, which was most interesting.

Then in May, the 24th, there was a field trip to the Sleepy Hollow country along the Hudson. A chartered bus took the group to "Sunnyside," Washington Irving's country home near Tarrytown. After a picnic lunch they visited "Lyndhurst," a National Trust property.

The energetic and active committee of the Maxwell Mansion wound up the season with "Art—Tique 68" on June 22nd. There was a clothes line art exhibit. Also antiques were for sale and other entertainment was provided. The day was hot and sunny, just right for the open air Art Show which is to be an annual event.

Upsala, another Germantown treasure, held its 24th Card Party on May 23, 1968. Bad weather kept all indoors but gave better opportunity of seeing a glass chandelier which was given to Upsala this past year and now hangs in the front hall. Another gift, a Sheraton bow front bureau, complete with original brasses, is in the southeast bedroom.

### CHURCHES

An important step was taken on April 21st when two prominent Episcopal churches merged. In so doing, St.

Luke's Episcopal Church with a predominantly white congregation, and St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, with a negro congregation, created a completely integrated church and congregation. St. Barnabas' Church was founded in 1904 as a Mission of St. Luke's Church, but has been an independent parish since 1930. The facilities of St. Luke's Church at 5421 Germantown Avenue, will be used by the merged congregation.

Two more churches have reached the one hundred year mark since they were founded. The Oxford Presbyterian Church at Stenton and Gowen Avenues, and the Third Baptist Church at Wister and Wakefield Streets. Special services and celebrations marked the occasions.

An Arts Festival—"God's World, Man's Art, a Celebration"—was held by the First Presbyterian Church, 35 W. Chelten Avenue, from April 20th to May 12th. George Bernard Shaw's play "Saint Joan" was given the opening night. Musical events were held, lectures on religious subjects were given, films shown, and there was a standing exhibit of art work by well known artists as well as an exhibit of stained glass by the Willet Studios.

On June 23rd, following the morning service, the newly remodeled and modernized Chapel building and Parish Hall of St. Peter's Episcopal Church at Wayne Avenue and Harvey Street, were dedicated. New Sunday School rooms, meeting rooms, and office facilities are among the major changes to the building.

## SCHOOLS

Stevens School at Crefeld Street and Laughlin Lane has been celebrating its Centennial year in many ways. Having started in Germantown in 1868, it is now well established at its Chestnut Hill address. For the first time in its history the affairs of the school are being run by a man. Mr. Gordon M. Day was appointed headmaster and assumed his duties in July.

The ground breaking ceremony of the new John B. Kelly school took place the end of March. Mr. John B. Kelly, Jr. dug the first shovelful of dirt at the site of the school at Pulaski, Hansberry, and Morris Streets.

The dedication of Lankenau School's new gymnasium-field house took place January 14th. It was followed by a tea in honor of Mrs. Loice E. Gouker, the principal of the school.

To take care of some 3900 students at Germantown High School will be a major project this year. The school will start earlier, and close earlier, each day because the interior of the building is being renovated. Temporary classrooms might be situated in the old gymnasiums, and Temple University's Cedarbrook campus is available. It is essential all cooperate to assure a successful school year.

The Germantown Friends School choir left June 19th on its fourth good-will tour to countries in Europe. There were 16 concerts scheduled, so little time was left for sightseeing. A rewarding part of the trip was the experience of living with the local families. England was the last stop on the list. The choir left for home July 26th.

The $2.25 million, two-year development campaign of Germantown Friends School has exceeded its goal by $200,000, as announced by Mr. Scattergood in May.

An addition to the Charles W. Henry School on Carpenter Lane at Greene Street has been under construction for a number of months. The landscape plan is arranged so a small arboretum can be planted in memory of Miss Caroline T. Moffett, whose love of woods and birds and all flowering shrubs endeared her to all. Miss Moffett was the first principal of the Henry School when it opened in 1904, until her resignation in 1936.

## HOSPITALS

The new $7.3 million wing at Women's Medical College was dedicated June 5th. It is a nine story building, completely air conditioned, combining eight facilities with the newest equipment. A new maternity floor, pediatric floor, two floors for medical and surgical patients, administration and radiology floor, an outpatient clinic, surgical, dietary floor, and storage and equipment floor.

The familiar sight of the Wiener House on the Germantown Hospital grounds as one enters from Wister Street, is no more. Purchased from the Wiener family in 1898, the house had seen many changes and been used for many things. Hospital expansion has increased so, the need for additional parking space made it necessary for the house to be torn down.

Germantown Hospital offered a refresher course to R. N.'s who, for one reason or another have been away from nursing for a long time. Many have taken advantage of the opportunity to catch up with modern medical advances and have regained their skills in nursing techniques.

The Main Street Fair, Chestnut Hill Hospital's big money raising event, was held October 2nd on the hospital grounds. The theme this year was "Life in These United States" with appropriate names for the different booths. All was very gay and festive.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Oak Tree landmark which stood on an island in the middle of the road, and for which The Oak Road was named, has been removed. It was a necessary act. Old age had made it unsafe. The Fairmount Park Commission has replaced it with a red oak tree, which we hope will uphold the dignity of the area for many years to come.

Once again Chelten Avenue has been torn up because of sewer work. This time it was between Greene Street and Wayne Avenue. Traffic, however, was not interrupted.

Stapely Hall has added a three story annex to its building at Greene Street and Washington Lane. This increases the Home's capacity from 55 to 79 persons. It is built of brick to match the original building.

Our summer musical programs are well spaced. When Robin Hood Dell closes the end of July the concerts at Pastorius Park in Chestnut Hill start. Five Wednesday night programs were scheduled, sponsored by the Chestnut Hill Community Association, the Chestnut Hill and Mt. Airy Business Men's Association, and the Fairmount Park Commission. The concerts are held in the lovely amphitheater donated to the City by Dr. George Woodward in the early thirties.

The old Orpheum Theater that stood on Chelten Avenue from before World War I days has been torn down. When first built it was one of Philadelphia's important vaudeville houses, then, keeping up with the times, it ended its career as a neighborhood movie house.

Another building which has been torn down is the old Penn Fruit store at Wayne and Chelten Avenues. In that case, however, plans are for a new modern Penn Fruit to be erected on the same site.

A 100 foot aerial ladder became officially part of the 9th Battalion when it was dedicated at the fire house at Chelten Avenue and Baynton Street. The ceremony took place January 27th.

This year there were 19 houses open when the Historical Society's Tour took place on Saturday, May 18th. Several private homes were on view that had not been opened before to the public. The day was partly cloudy but there was a good crowd, many of whom went on to a dinner served at the First Methodist Church in spite of the threatening clouds.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mr. Thomas Valleau has been appointed the new director of Colonial Germantown, Inc. A native of Buffalo, New York, he now resides in the Germantown area.

Dr. Jonathan E. Rhoads, Chairman of the Department of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, was the recipient of the highly regarded Strittmatter award this year. The presentation took place April 30th.

Associate Professor of Fine Arts at Beaver College, Mr. John W. Hathaway of Germantown, has been named Acting Chairman of the Fine Arts Department. Mr. Hathaway has been a member of the Beaver College faculty since 1934.

Dr. Katherine Boucot Sturgis, chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Women's Medical College, received the 36th Annual Gimbel Philadelphia Award on January 11th. Dr. Sturgis is the first woman president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

Mr. Robert D. Yarnall, president of the Yarway Corporation, was selected as "Man of the Year" by the Philadelphia Industrial Management Club.

Mrs. Charles Francis Jenkins, of "Far Country," Mt. Airy, celebrated her 100th birthday on September 8th. Members of her family helped her mark the special occasion at a party held at the Buck Hill Falls Tennis Club on September 7th. In 1900 her husband was an active participant in organizing The Site and Relic Society of Germantown, which is now known as The Germantown Historical Society.

With the death of Mr. Benton Spruance last December the art world lost one of its most widely respected artist-teachers and scholars in the country. He had been a member of the Beaver College faculty forty years. In October he will be honored with two exhibits: a print show at Philadelphia Museum of Art, and a mixed media exhibit at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

The Germantown Historical Society regrets to report the loss, by death, of the following members:

Miss Louise Alteneder
Mr. William S. Crowder
Mr. Philip M. Dunn
Miss Dora Gilmour
Mr. Robert B. Haines, 3rd
Mr. George A. Landell
Mr. Frank H. Merchant
Mr. Paul Van Reed Miller
Mr. Edwin C. Moore
Mrs. Clive M. Reid
Mrs. Sidney J. Repplier
Mrs. A. Jackson Sailer
Mr. Fred W. Schwoebel
Mrs. Wesley Williams
Mr. Thomas Wriggins

## RANDOM OBSERVATIONS

On Carpenter Lane near Greene Street there stands a grotesque object. A curiosity for onlookers who pass by. It is a stainless steel giraffe whose neck towers above the one story studio of sculptor Howard Kimmelman. He has been commissioned to construct it for the Dunks Ferry Playground.

For the 9th time the Germantown Y.M.C.A. has captured the National Gymnastics title, in a two-day, 50 state competition.

The Germantown Renewal Plan, having passed City Council, seems to have become temporarily lost in Washington.

The June meeting of the Germantown Historical Society is always planned to be a garden party. It was held June 6th this year. The weather was perfect and many guests attended. All the Museum buildings were open for inspection, and ice cream, cake, and coffee were served.

Later all adjourned to Trinity Church Parish House where Mrs. Henry R. Hallowell talked on "Travels in Peru," illustrated with beautiful pictures.

This year the Annual Fall Tour was held Saturday, October 12th. Buses took the group to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to visit the Central Moravian Church, The Moravian Museum, the Female Seminary, the Apothecary Shop, and the Kemerer Museum. A full and most interesting trip.

Our Historical Year has come the full circle once more and we turn the page to make room for the happenings of the year to come. May they bring comfort, wisdom, and understanding, and peace for all.



HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG, 1711-1787, born and educated in Germany, in 1741 he accepted a call to Pennsylvania to serve three Lutheran Churches. He reached Philadelphia in November of 1742 and, until his death in 1787,

> " - - - gave himself unstintingly that the Lutheran Church might not only be planted in North America but might live and grow as an integral part of a new, developing, democratically oriented culture. So successful was he that the Lutherans took their place naturally and easily alongside other patriots in the struggle for freedom. The lessons he taught them through his relations with men of other faiths, cultures, and races, through his philosophy of church organization and work, and through his attitude toward the responsibilities of citizenship, helped them discover the real meaning of democracy. These lessons they translated into actualities duirng the Revolution and the period of the formation of the federal union.
>
> When Muhlenberg died in 1787 he left behind a legacy of no mean proportions—a church that was both demonstrably Lutheran and demonstrably American." (1.)

Henry Muhlenberg kept a journal in which may be found day by day accounts of many interesting events. In "Germantown Incident" (see page 111) Mrs. Hoover gives an account of The Paxton Rangers based on descriptions found in the Muhlenberg journals.

(1.) *Lutherans in North America,* By Richard C. Wolf

Lutheran Church Press, 1965

# GERMANTOWN INCIDENT

*By* MARGARET HOCKER HOOVER

Mrs. Hoover's book, *Concerning Collegeville,* was reviewed in the CRIER for May, 1967. See also "Der Geschwinde Rechner," in the same issue.

IN THE second volume of his "Journals," Henry Melchior Muhlenberg tells of a disturbance in Germantown in 1764. At the close of 1763, as a result of a massacre of Indians in the Conestoga and Lancaster region by the "Paxton Rangers," some Indians had been taken to Philadelphia to protect them from the frontiersmen. Pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, Muhlenberg at the time had more sympathy with the German, English, and Irish settlers scattered throughout Pennsylvania than with the Indians then being protected, particularly by the Quakers and Moravians (Herrnhuters).

According to Pastor Muhlenberg, on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 1, 1764, the governor of Pennsylvania summoned citizens to the state house in Philadelphia to proclaim:

> "1. That it had been learned that a large mob of frontier settlers, who had killed several Indians in Lancaster, were coming to Philadelphia to kill the Indian families who had been brought down from Bethlehem and taken under the protection of the government.
>
> "2. That since such procedure could be considered as being none other than a breach of the peace, revolution, or rebellion against our gracious king and the law of the land, the *Act of Riot* was invoked and one hundred and some regular soldiers were set apart to guard and protect the Bethlehem Indian families in the barracks.
>
> "3. That the governor and *counsel* called upon citizens who were willing to lend armed assistance and resist the rebellion to band themselves together and hand in their names.
>
> "4. That because there was a pouring rain at the time and the Germans did not enlist and sign their names with the rest, the governor and others were much offended, conjecturing that perhaps the Germans might be making common cause with the malcontents or so-called rebels, etc."

Muhlenberg continues, "As far as I can learn, the opinion and sentiment of various ones of our German citizens are as follows:

> "1. They are of the opinion that it could be proved that the Indians who had lived among the so-called Moravian Brethren had killed several (German) settlers.
>
> "2. That the Quakers and Bethlehemites had some of the aforesaid Indians (as spies) and that they had in view only their own selfish interests, without considering at all that they had murdered their fellow Christians.
>
> "3. Indeed, that they had loaded down the said Indians with presents and taken them, their secret enemies, to their bosom only for the sake of this selfish interest, which explained why the Friends, etc., in Philadelphia did not exhibit the least evidence of human sympathy, etc., when Germans and other settlers on the frontiers were massacred and destroyed in the most inhuman manner by the Indians. On the contrary, these Bethlehem Indians, despite this (despite their congenital craftiness, etc.) were brought to Philadelphia and maintained and supported at the expense of the inhabitants. Besides, the young male Indians had already escaped and were probably doing harm while the old men and women and children were living off the fat of the land at the expense of the province.
>
> "4. And now because there was a rumor that the remote settlers, some of whom had lost their wives and others their children and relations through those atrocious Indian massacres, were intending to come to Philadelphia in a corps and revenge themselves upon these Indians, therefore our German citizens could enlist to fight, resist, or even kill their own flesh and blood, their fellow citizens and fellow Christians, and seek to protect the lives of the Bethlehem Indians! Why, they say, that would be contrary to nature and contrary to the law of Christ, for he did not say, 'Thou shalt hate thy friend and love thine enemy'. That is the general tone among some. They would unhesitatingly and gladly pour out their possessions and their blood for our most gracious king and (his) officers, but they would not wage war against their own suffering fellow citizens for the sake of the Quakers and Herrnhuters and their creatures or instruments, the double-dealing Indians."

By the evening of February 5, a rumor that a group of backwoods settlers—English, Irish, German—were on their way to Philadelphia to kill the Bethlehem Indians protected in the barracks outside the city. Some said there were 700, others, 1500. Quakers and Herrnhuters were running back and forth to the barracks. The report was that small fortresses or ramparts were being built. To Pastor Muhlenberg it seemed strange that these preparations were being made against fellow citizens when no protection was given His Majesty's subjects and citizens on the frontier.

At two o'clock in the night the city watchman cried, "Fire!" It soon became evident that there was no fire but that the backwoodsmen were approaching.

Muhlenberg writes:

> "Thereupon all the alarm bells began to ring all at once and a drum was sounded to summon the inhabitants of the city to the town hall plaza. The ringing sounded dreadful in the night. I asked a German neighbor to go to the town hall and bring me news of what was happening there. He reported that the market place was crowded with all sorts of people and that arms were being distributed to those who would take them. He had not, however, seen many Germans. The sounding of the tocsin continued on through the night

until near dawn and the inhabitants were ordered to place lights inside their doors and windows, which was done. Meanwhile, all sorts of rumors were flying in every direction: The rebels had divided into three groups and were going to attack the open city in three places simultaneously; then they were near; then they were still far away; now they were coming from the east, then the west, and so on."

Finally alarm bells seemed to quiet in the early morning of February 6. That day the governor and council called a meeting of important citizens among whom was the Provost of the Lutheran Church, Dr. Wrangel. He reported to Dr. Muhlenberg that the council was annoyed because few or none of the German church people had volunteered to take up arms and that they were wrong to stand idly by in the market place.

At the time Muhlenberg was inactive because of illness and his assistant, Pastor Brycelius, was called upon to give advice to the Germans. He was to drive to Germantown with all haste to "(a) warn the elders of our congregation there not to join the approaching rebels but rather to stand on the side of the government, and (b), since it had been bruited about that there were many Germans among the so-called rebels, Mr. Brycelius was to try to see whether he could not give them an earnest and Kindly admonition, etc."

Word was going around that the mob was coming toward Germantown from Whitemarsh. The Germans were aroused and craftsmen formed a small mounted and armed company that, with sounding trumpets, toured the city and the surrounding countryside. At one time they were mistaken for rebels and almost shot by an ignorant constable who had cannons loaded with small balls placed about the city.

To use Pastor Muhlenberg's words: "It seems almost inconceivable but a number of older and younger Quakers also formed themselves into companies and took up arms, etc. At any rate it was a strange sight to the children on the streets. A whole troop of small boys followed a prominent Quaker down the street shouting in amazement, 'Look, look! A Quaker carrying a musket on his shoulder!"

Older inhabitants remembered these same Quakers choosing to die rather than to defend themselves during the long Spanish, French, and Indian War. Now they were arming themselves with flintlocks and daggers to attack the frontiersmen—their fellow citizens.

That evening Pastor Brycelius came from Germantown to see Dr. Muhlenberg. He reported that the Germantown congregation had not seen nor heard anything of the rebels. However, on returning to Germantown and Chestnut Hill, he came suddenly and unexpectedly upon an approaching group of people. Mr. Brycelius was startled and wanted to flee back to town. However, since the group seemed to want to confer with him, he remained to become better acquainted with the strangers. The minister was favorably impressed by several of the Irishmen and Englishmen in the group who seemed to be respectable people. He expressed interest in them and remembered that he himself had lived in Dublin at one time and had grown to love the Irish people. In the end he asked them their intentions in coming to Philadelphia and they replied that they had no unworthy purpose. They wanted:

"a) To demand the custody of the Bethlehem Indians, not to kill them, but only to conduct them out of the province. They were ready to put up a bond of ten thousand pounds that this was their intention.

"b) The people in and around Philadelphia lived a pleasant, protected life and had no feelings for the great need and tribulation which the poor settlers on the frontier had to endure. They lacked protection and even the barest necessities. So since they had a number of weighty *gravamina* to present to the government, which must of necessity be redressed, they had set out on this journey to settle their grievances in Philadelphia."

Mr. Brycelius answered by explaining that nothing could be done about the Indians because they were under the protection of the government and, since the visitors were understood to have come with the purpose murder—the Lancaster Indians had been murdered—an Act of Riot had been read on the past Saturday against their illegal assembly. Besides that, a large company of royal soldiers were now under arms guarding the remaining Indian families in the barracks. Defences and cannons had been provided for the barracks and a mobilization of arms was made. Mr. Brycelius pitied the group of frontiersmen but urged them to go no further, "but rather to commit their case into the hands of God and the government."

He urged them not to go to Philadelphia but "rather to send their most intelligent men into the city as unarmed deputies to the governor."

His ideas seemed to impress the group who said that so far only 250 of their people had arrived, although they had expected 1500 of them by midnight, and 3,000 had enlisted altogether. They would consider the minister's suggestion when they were all convened.

"When Pastor Brycelius," the Journals continue, "with good intention, remarked to them, among other things, that even the Quakers had taken up arms, they laughed heartily and were amazed at such a *phenomenon*. Mr. Brycelius offered to give them something to drink for refreshment, but they refused absolutely to accept it, saying that they were used to nothing but the most extreme want. They had a rule among them that if anyone discharged a flintlock without a command he was immediately to be shot by the person next to him. While Mr. Brycelius was there a flintlock went off unexpectedly and the others immediately shouted, 'Shoot him dead.' Several others, however, immediately objected that it had been done unintentionally. They were so trustful of Mr. Brycelius that they even gave him the password for the night. He therefore also asked them who their captain or leader was. But here they were shrewd and replied in the phraseology of the Indians that they were all brothers and that they also had among them some old per-

sons whose advice they followed. After Mr. Brycelius had done what he could, besides the efforts made by two English preachers of the High Church and a Presbyterian professor from the Academy, who had likewise been requested by the governor to see what they could do among these people, he departed and returned to my house. He judged that there were very few Germans among them, that most of them were English and Scotch-Irish dissenters. For the rest, he said they appeared to be resolute and soldier-like, but withal decent and substantial, most of them furnished with horses, muskets, a pair of pistols, and Indian hatchets."

In Philadelphia the militia drilled in the largest Quaker meeting house on the market place. A conference was held by Dr. Wrangel and the governor and it was realized at that time that, although everyone was willing to serve the king, not everyone was willing to defend the Indians in the barracks. The governor asked Dr. Wrangel to a meeting the next day in behalf of the Germans who were among the rebels.

On Tuesday, February 7, the governor himself went out to Germantown to try to make peace. At five o'clock in the morning he set out with members of his council: Benjamin Franklin, Royal Agent Benjamin Chew, Joseph Galloway, City Mayor Thomas Willing, William Logan, Dr. Wrangel, and Daniel Roberdeau. When they were half way to Germantown it was decided that Dr. Wrangel and Mr. Roberdeau should go ahead to speak to the so-called rioters at about 7 o'clock in the morning in Coleman's Tavern where a great number had gathered. Dr. Wrangel delivered an address urging sensible Christian sentiments and conduct. In a short time the gentlemen of the council arrived. Mr. Logan was the first one to enter, only to be greeted with shouts of, "There's that scoundrel Logan, that Quaker!" He immediately turned away and mounted his horse to leave.

The conference assembled—the gentlemen from Philadelphia, together with Col. John Armstrong, Known as the "Hero of Kittanning" for his successful leadership against the Indians and perhaps the chief agent of the frontier inhabitants. When Matthaius Smith, the spokesman for the frontier people, with his assistants Messrs. Brown and Gibson, arrived the conference began in an upper room of the tavern. (Smith had conferred earlier in the morning in Philadelphia with the governor and council).

Now as the spokesman Smith stated that the group had come armed to protest because for years the Indians had been plundering them, and the government had refused aid many times when it had been requested. Besides that, they, the backwoodsmen, had been insulted by the Quakers who made fun of them and cried, "See there! There are the murderers of Paxton who have slain the Indians!"

To make things worse the Quakers had sheltered and protected those same Indians in the city at public expense, treating them as lords. At the same time the suffering frontiersmen were scorned as a mixed crowd of Scotch-Irishmen and Germans with no one caring how their lives were in constant danger.

The frontiersmen were proposing that the Indians be removed from the barracks without killing them nor doing other harm to loyal fellow citizens nor the government. They were willing to offer satisfactory guarantees to this. Also, after finding that the Bethlehem Indians had been taken into custody by the government and not by private Quakers, and were being guarded by His Majesty's soldiers, they had no wish to use arms against the government. They much preferred to arbitrate their grievances by selecting three deputies from amongst them to represent them before the government. Mr. Franklin and City Mayor Willing were especially chosen to present a statement of the frontiersmen's injuries. The crowd was then willing to disperse and return home.

As a sign that the matter was to be investigated, Matthaius Smith, the spokesman, had three shots fired and the council members prepared to return to Philadelphia. The affair was not concluded without there being a report later on during the night that four hundred additional men had arrived in Germantown. When this was found to be the case these new arrivals were eventually persuaded to turn back home by being promised that their grievances were to be considered.

Meanwhile Philadelphia was not without an air of gaiety. Bells were ringing and drums were beating to assemble the volunteer militiamen to be on call if needed. These were drilled in the Quaker meeting house on the market place which began to look like the chief garrison with its many flags and drums.

To quote again from "The Journals":

> "February 8, Wednesday. Today I learned that the honorable council and Dr. Wrangel concluded an amnesty with the backwoods inhabitants yesterday in Germantown and that two deputies were to settle the affair with the government. (During the morning as a result of the false report, there was another general mobilization and the shops were suddenly closed for fear of rebellion and tumult. But there was nothing to the rumor except the arrival, about noon, of the deputies from Germantown escorted by a small company of thirty of their armed men.) The volunteer militia made up of Quakers, Germans, and others, about five hundred men, was then called together and, with flying banners they escorted the company to the market place where the governor had a proclamation read from the state house, stating that the militia was discharged because the affair was to be settled peacefully."

Dr. Muhlenberg concludes his record of this troublesome incident by recognizing the governor's wisdom in having gone to Germantown the day before to speak to the people personally.

NOTE: All quotations are from *"The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg."* Volume II, for the year 1764—February 1 - 8.

# SOUTHWARK AND THE DELAWARE RIVER

By Frances V. Finletter

*Here, again, is an article prepared as a paper to be presented at a meeting of The Study Class of Germantown. We are impressed by the time, energy, and talent these ladies devote to the preparation of their papers.*

*See Anna Mattern, "The Study Class of Germantown," in THE GERMANTOWNE CRIER, December, 1967.*

*See, also, Mildred Thorp Soast, "Frankford," in THE GERMANTOWNE CRIER, March, 1968.*

*Mrs. Finletter received the following letter from The Reverend John Craig Roak, Rector of Gloria Dei Church (Old Swedes' Church).*

*6 February 1968*

*Dear Mrs. Finletter:*

*I have read your manuscript at last and am returning it herewith. Thank you very much for allowing me to see it. The group for whom you prepared it was indeed fortunate to have had so much research and insight applied to the District of Southwark. It is a section of Philadelphia which is fast passing into oblivion and I suggest that you record your findings with as many historical groups as you can. Future historians will find the material of inestimable value.*

*Thanking you, I am*

*Very sincerely*
John Craig Roak
*Rector*

*The CRIER is only too happy to follow this suggestion.*

The quotation which I chose to go with my paper is, "We'll wander through the streets and note the quality of the People." I have followed this program, suggested by Shakespeare, in gathering material for I have found written records of Southwark meagre and rather colorless. I rode the boundaries of the area and I walked the streets, stopping to chat with passersby. I visited schools and parks, historic churches and old houses, markets and the waterfront.

*Southwark*—South Wark as present-day inhabitants call it—was named after an area in London, south of the Thames. Lambeth Palace is in this district. It was originally known as South Works because of the military defense works built along the Thames to resist raids of the Vikings.

Our Southwark is small and irregular in shape, running roughly from South Street south to Mifflin Street and from the Delaware River west to Passayunk Avenue. Passayunk Avenue is the oldest thoroughfare and the first named road in what is now Philadelphia. It is mentioned by name in 1660. Southwark and a considerable portion of present Philadelphia was known as Wicaco in very early days. Southwark was originally designated as Southern Liberties but the name was, apparently, never used. The Southern and Northern Liberties were chosen and set aside by Penn as areas where center city dwellers could have free land on which to grow crops and raise livestock.

We begin our story with the Swedes, who were the first permanent settlers. Before their arrival there were only a few itinerant traders, chiefly English and Dutch. The Dutch had a few small settlements on the Jersey side of the river. The Delaware at that time was called by the Dutch the South River in contradistinction to the North River, later known as the Hudson River.

The Swedes first arrived in America in 1638 and settled at Christiana, now Wilmington, under the leadership of Peter Minuit, chosen by the King of Sweden to found the colony. Minuit was a Dutchman who had been director general of New Netherlands until 1631. It was he who had purchased Manhattan from the Indians. It is puzzling that the Swedes and the Dutch were constantly feuding on the Delaware, building forts to keep the river under the control of one or the other, fighting over their titles to land bought from the Indians, yet they often seem to have accepted a leader from the other nation and the Dutch contributed both money and supplies to the first and second expeditions to found New Sweden. The Swedes eventually bought from the Indians all the land on the west shore of the river from Christiana to Trenton though later the Dutch claimed they had previously bought certain sections from the Indians.

In 1642, Colonel Johan Printz was sent as Governor General to New Sweden. On arrival he decided that the Christiana settlement was too small for the additional immigrants who came with him so he moved up the river to Tinicum Island. Here he built a substantial fort—Fort Gottenberg—and, for himself, a comfortable mansion which he named Printzhof. The foundations of this mansion were excavated in 1930 by the State Museum Archeologists. This mansion was of log construction but, according to old records, it must have been handsomely furnished. For example one item of cost for curtains is listed at £42. A church was built and the settlers built huts for themselves on the mainland nearby.

Printz was a colorful character. He is reputed to have weighed 400 pounds and apparently enjoyed "putting on the dog," demanding that his soldiers and the settlers treat him more or less as a prince. A former cavalry

officer, he had courage, unusual executive ability, and perseverance. He never trusted or liked the Indians but he never showed them cruelty as the Dutch did. He was wise and far-sighted in his plans for the colony but the government in Sweden neglected their new colonies and sent neither the supplies nor the settlers that were desperately needed. Printz managed to hold the colony together but his arrogance and autocratic ways built up considerable animosity among the settlers and they made several attempts to free themselves from his rule. His daughter, Armgard, "a most romantic figure who had spent her childhood with her father in army camps and prisons in Germany during the Thirty Years War, accompanied him on his first commission as governor as a girl of 17, and remained at Tinicum as the wife of the new governor when Printz returned to Sweden. After the Dutch burned the Printzhof in 1656, she lived nearby and entered into a long legal battle with the Dutch to establish her title to Tinicum Island."

A disastrous fire that burnt down the fort and most of Printzhof probably was the cause that led some of the settlers to leave Tinicum and push further up the river to Wicaco. Here they built a blockhouse in 1669 which was converted into a place of worship in 1675. The settlers often came to church in canoes or shallops, their guns on their shoulders. The building was also used for other meetings and the court made its proclamations and posted its notices there. At this time there were 150 to 300 Swedes settled on or near the Delaware north of its confluence with the Schuylkill River.

In 1677 the church of Gloria Dei was founded and in 1698 the cornerstone of the present church was laid. There had been heated arguments as to whether the church should be built in Passayunk (now Point Breeze) on the Schuylkill River or on the Delaware at Wicaco. The decision was made by drawing lots and, apparently, when Wicaco won the draw there was no further dissention. The pastor, Rev. Rudman, consulted a "noted mystic, Magister Sellig, residing on the Wissahickon," as to a propitious day for commencement of the building. William Penn was present at the laying of the cornerstone as were the Mystic Brotherhood of the Wissahickon. According to Penn's observations when he visited the Swedish settlements on his arrival in the New World, "They are a plain, strong, industrious people yet have made no progress in culture or propagation of fruit trees as if they desired to have enough rather than plenty or for traffic." They must, however, have managed to feed their children well for Penn speaks of their houses "full of fine children." The Swedes won his admiration for their vigor and thrift. Records show that they built up a lucrative trade in furs, bought from the Indians and sold to older settlements in New Amsterdam, New Jersey, and Maryland.

The present rector of Gloria Dei, the Rev. John Craig Roak, has written a brief history of the church from which I have taken many excerpts.

Some of the materials for the new church were brought from the old church at Tinicum. The same bricklayers and carpenters who had built the church at Christiana were brought up river to build Gloria Dei. The bricks were made at Pumpkin Neck, New Jersey.

The church was dedicated in 1700—the oldest church in Pennsylvania. For the consecration, members of the Society of the Rosicrusians—Megister Johannes Kelpius and his brethren—came from the Wissahickon and provided both the instrumental and choral music for the occasion.

Several priceless treasurers, brought to New Sweden by Colonel Printz in 1642, were placed in the church when the old church at Tinicum was abandoned. These include the Gottenberg baptismal font and the bell in the tower which bears the inscription, "I to the church all living call, and to the grave do summon all." Also there is a carved stone cherubim above a carved stone open Bible upon whose pages there is inscribed a passage from the Old Testament, "The people who wandered in the darkness have seen a great light." This refers to the labors of the Swedish clergy to convert the Indians. From the New Testament the quotation is, "Glory to God in the Highest," indicating the origin of the name Gloria Dei. Other treasures in the church are two chalices made by the famous silversmith David Richardson, an old communion service made in Ireland, a model of the first ship bringing Swedish settlers to America, given by the celebrated Swedish sculptor, Carl Milles, and another, smaller one, given by a Chestnut Hill woman and made by Mrs. Curtin. In the churchyard there is a recently erected monument to five famous Swedes who have made notable contributions to our country—John Dahlgren, John Ericson who invented the propeller and designed and built the renowned naval ship, the Monitor, John Nystrom, John Morton, and John Hanson who was the first president of the United States under the Articles of Confederation.

Mr. Roak gives a list of Facts of Interest relating to the church.

1703 Justus Faulkner, the first clergyman ordained in the New World was ordained in the church. Kelpius and the Society of Rosicrucians gave the first orchestral concert in America at this service.

1742 Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, famous leader of the Lutheran Church in America, was consecrated in the church.

1777 Elizabeth ("Betsy") Ross was married here to Captain Joseph Ashburn.

1812 Alexander Wilson, The father of American Ornithology, was buried in the churchyard.

1845 The congregation of Gloria Dei was admitted into the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

1850 Jenny Lind visited the church several times and on one occasion sang a solo from Handel's Messiah.

1850 Fredrika Bremer, famous Swedish pioneer feminist and writer, visited the church.

1926 Crown Prince Gustaf Adolph of Sweden attended services in commemoration of 150 years of our independence.

1938 The Crown Prince attended services to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the settlement of New Sweden.

Never in the long history of the parish have the services been interrupted.

The church joined the Episcopal Church in 1845 because, by that time, there were not many Swedes left in the neighborhood and the parishioners were mainly of Anglo-Saxon descent. The church had always had a close association with Old Christ Church but they had never worked well with the Lutheran churches which had been founded by the Dutch or Germans.

At present Dr. Roak reports that there are still a number of parishioners of Swedish descent, some of whom come to the church from New Jersey or our suburbs, but many of the communicants are descendants of English settlers. Many of them are relatives of our most prominent families. Most of them have limited incomes but they work hard for their church. The church still celebrates a number of Swedish festivals.

Dr. Roak is distressed about the proposed east-west city throughway which, at present, is planned to run from river to river between South and Bainbridge Streets, destroying many old houses and uprooting hundreds of families. He feels it will spell the doom of Southwark as a district. Fortunately the Delaware River highway has swung back from the river to avoid the church but, in so doing, it has demolished 178 houses designated as of historic interest. The church lost 80 families whose houses were demolished and who have moved out of the neighborhood.

Before we leave Gloria Dei I would like to quote an inscription that Dr. Roak read to me from a gravestone dated 1716.

Dear friends for me pray
Do not weep
I am not dead
But here do sleep
Within this solid lump of clay
Until the Resurrection Day
And here indeed I will remain
'Til Christ shall raise me up again

Gloria Dei I found the most interesting historical building in Southwark so I have given considerable time to it, but now we turn to consider the whole district. It is the oldest part of the present city and originally lay just south of the city boundary.

Apparently this was always a somewhat turbulent area inhabited chiefly by working people of many nationalities even in early days. Swedes, English, Irish, Scotch, and Germans followed by French and, later, by Italians and, still later, by Poles and Porto Ricans. In 1738 it is recorded that 9,000 Germans, chiefly peasants, came to Philadelphia, a fair number settling in Southwark. The Germans often chose to settle at some distance from navigable streams. Lewis Evans wrote of them about 1750, "The first settlers built barns as large as palaces while the owners lived in log huts." I might interpolate here that among the Pennsylvania Germans in Lancaster County in my girlhood the barns were always provided with running water and electricity long before the farmhouse was so equipped. Benjamin Rush wrote in 1780 that "German farms could be distinguished by the superior size of their barns; plain compact form of houses; height of their enclosures; the extent of their orchards and the fertility of their fields; the luxuriance of their meadows; and the general appearance of plenty and neatness in everything that belonged to them." Another writer mentions the immense quantities of wheat which the German farmers harvested.

Industries are mentioned very early in the history of Southwark. Ship-builders were busy along the waterfront in the 18th century. In 1797 there is a record of a brig of 20 guns built by Joshua Humphrey. This brig and two other vessels at the same time were transferred to the Dey of Algiers "in payment of tribute." Evidently that was before Stephen Decatur forced the Dey to sign a treaty ending all tribute.

The ship "Constitution" was built here. She defended American commerce against French privateers and the Barberry pirates, and fought against the British in the war of 1812.

A shot tower, built in 1808, still stands back of Gloria Dei. It was used in 1812 and again in the Civil War for making bullets. Later it was bought by a Quaker who forbad its use for war materials. I have just learned that there is now a small museum here.

Advertisements for Bonnin's China Works in Southwark are noted in 1770-1772. It was established by an Englishman, Mr. Bonnin. Toward the end of the 18th century he found his business in serious financial trouble. He had to ask for "the charity of the public to care for my workers." He sold out and returned to England but china and glass were later manufactured in the district.

By 1792 bootmakers were sufficiently numerous to organize and to strike, then and again in 1805, for higher wages. In 1806 they were brought to trial and convicted of "Conspiracy to Raise Wages." They set up a warehouse of their own and appealed to the public through the press "to save them and their families from abject poverty."

In the request for incorporation as a district it is stated, "The owners and possessors have erected at great expense a large number of houses, messuages, wharves, stores, and other buildings."

Skilled workmen could be prosperous in those days as in ours. Samuel Harding, master woodcarver for Independence Hall, owned and occupied a house in the 1750s that is still standing at 104 Kenilworth Street. This house was built by John Palmer, bricklayer, builder of Old St. Paul's Church on 3rd Street, now the center of Episcopal Community Services. On Pemberton Street there is a house at the entrance to Workman Place, built in 1748 for George Mifflin, grandfather of Thomas Mifflin who was governor of Pennsylvania from 1790 to 1799. The initials G M and the date 1748 are written with bricks on the gable facing Pemberton Street. Workman Place was named for a later owner of the house, John Workman, a lumber merchant, who built in 1813 three houses nearby on Front Street—

numbers 742, 744, and 746. Workman Place is now owned by the Octavia Hill Association.

On the west side of Front Street, south of Christian Street, there are 38 houses certified for preservation, 21 built before 1775 and several others before 1800. On Kenilworth Street, between Front and Second Streets, there are 16 houses still standing that were built before 1765. Many mariners and sea captains lived in this area in the 18th century as well as others connected with ship-building—ship designers and builders, riggers, rope makers, ship chandlers, and sail makers.

The first U.S. Navy Yard was at the foot of Federal Street and was not moved to League Island until the Civil War.

Stephen Decatur, the naval hero of the war against the French privateers and the Barberry pirates and of the war of 1812, lived in a house still standing at 609 South Front Street.

The municipality of Southwark was created in 1762 as a suburb of Philadelphia. There were to be 9 elected officers—3 surveyors and regulators, 3 supervisors, and 3 assessors. These officers were given power equivalent to County Commissioners. Taxes were not to exceed 3 d per £ of "clear value of real and personal estate."

In 1772 there were 603 houses listed in Southwark. In 1780 lists were made of all males between the ages of 18 and 53 for military duty and, at that time, Southwark and several outlying districts were incorporated into the city for military purposes. However it was not until 1854 that Southwark became an integral part of the city.

By 1786 Southwark had become sufficiently populated to require the layout of streets, the Assembly stating that "the district had no regulation for its streets and alleys "which were "irregularly placed" and that there was danger "that in time it would become a heap of confused buildings without order or design." Streets at right angles were directed to be laid out.

By 1788 the supervisors were given authority to "dig wells, establish pumps for public use" and to "regulate, pitch, pave, light, and provide for watching the streets." By 1801 public waterworks were constructed and by 1826 Southwark was supplied with water from the Schuylkill River via the Fairmount Water Works. In 1812, $5,000 was appropriated for "a nightly watch and street lamps to be erected and maintained.

To go back a bit in our story, the first theatre in America was opened in 1759 by Mr. Lewis Hallam and his family in a small building at the corner of South and Vernon Streets. They only played there one year, then left the city for five years. When they returned in 1766. the company, which Mr. Hallam called The American Company, built a theatre on the corner of South and Apollo Streets which they named the Southwark Theatre. They played there in the winters of 1768, 69, and 70, and again in 1773. Because of serious political questions at this time the Provincial Congress discouraged "every species of extravagance and dissipation, especially horse-racing, and all kinds of gaming, cock-fighting, exhibition of shows, plays and other expensive diversions and entertainment." The theatre remained closed until 1777 when it was opened by British officers for amateur performances. After the return of the Continental Congress a company of professional actors performed in the fall of 1778. In 1779 a dinner was held by the sons of St. Tammany in honor of their patron saints, St. Andrew, Saint George, and Saint Patrick. However in that same year the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed a new act upon vice and immorality in which was incorporated a provision against theatrical performances and shows of every kind.

In spite of this act a dramatic entertainment was given in the theatre in 1782 in honor of General Washington. It was a festive occasion with several dances and a prologue by Beaumarchais. A number of the staid and worthly citizens vigorously condemned it as frivolous. However, because of the evenings success, its producer, a Frenchman named Alexandre Quesnay, wished to repeat the performance for the benefit of the poor in the Pennsylvania Hospital and for the soldiers in the barracks. The strait-laced Quaker members of the Assembly forbade it. Quesnay evaded the prohibition by transforming the theatre into The Academy of Polite Science where, although he did not produce plays, he entertained with "music, illuminations, and a variety of French dances."

In 1784 and '85 Mr. Hallam tried to obtain a repeal of the act and almost succeeded. In spite of this failure he opened the theatre in March, 1785, using all sorts of subterfuges in titles to disguise the production of plays. For instance, Hamlet was introduced as "Filial Piety Exemplified in the History of the Prince of Denmark." In 1789 a petition was signed by 1900 citizens for repeal of the prohibition. There was great excitement, the clergy and the Society of Friends being violently opposed to repeal. Finally new petitions were signed and, when the Legislature found there were 6,000 for the repeal and only 4,000 against it, they removed the restriction. Mr. Hallam and his partner, John Henry, reopenend the theatre in 1790. The theatre became fashionable and the return of Congress to Philadelphia insured a good attendance. In 1794 a new, rival theatre, The Chestnut Street Theatre, was opened. It offered "comfortable and elegant accommodations." Hallam wisely decided the Southwark Theatre had had its day. It had been described as "an ugly, ill-contrived affair, outside and inside." But that indictment may have been written by a disgruntled actor. It was never used again except for occasional special performances or for summer engagements. I suppose we might consider the Theatre of the Living Arts now on South Street its descendent.

In 1822 the Southwark Library was established, shares of stock being sold to raise funds. Its small collection of books was slowly augmented. Its quarters were at 765 Second Street where, later, it built a substantial brick building.

In 1824 the Southwark Bank was chartered and

opened at 265 South Second Street. There had been a riot when the bank opened its books for subscriptions. The Commission had ordered that only 2 shares should be sold to any one person. Trouble erupted when persons desiring large quantities of shares hired porters, draymen, and other strong-arm men to enter subscriptions for them. The bank officers received the subscriptions through a small window but the rough crowd pushed, jostled, kicked, and clambered over the heads of others to reach the window. Some citizens had their clothing partially torn off.

I have a personal interest in the history of one of the important industries that developed in Southwark. My great-grandfather, Samuel Vaughan Merrick, in 1816, aged 15, came from his birthplace in Hallowell, Maine, to learn business affairs from his uncle, John Vaughan. Some of you may remember the portrait of John Vaughan in my living room. I found two, colorful descriptions of him,"

> " - - - prompt and fleet au pied. In winter he wore a red-collared, Scotch plaid cloak, carelessly thrown over his shoulder—a memorable figure even afar off."
>
> "The venerable John Vaughan is busily engaged in importing and vending wines at his counting house, nos. 109 and 111 Front Street. - - - Mr. Vaughan is a philanthropist of the first order—not a smouldering spark of intentions, but a burning zeal to warm up the thrift and furtherance of others. He is a bachelor but of estimable moral integrity. An Englishman by birth, he is a benefactor of the poor, the widow, the fatherless, and the strangers in a strange land."

There is a discription of the busy life of the waterfront in the late 18th and early 19th centuries which, probably, would have been seen from his place of business.

> "The carrying trade between the United States and the West Indies is a fruitful source of life to the commercial interests of Philadelphia. Her wharves are gay with streamers, from the smallest to the largest floating castles of the mighty deep, signaling their import, receiving kindly fruits of our own soil or presenting for our use and profit the riches of other climes. - - - Rich as is the West India trade, Philadelphia has even more to boast of! Europe, Asia, India, China, and Africa are represented at our margin by their merchandise. The towering mast of the dignified merchantmen betell their presence and the 'Yo heave ho' of the salty mariner heralds the delivery of their treasures."

In 1820 John Vaughan "acquired an industrial establishment wholly foreign to the importing and vending of wines. The factory made an improved type of steam fire engine." Samuel Merrick was equally ignorant of the industry but he agreed to become part owner and head of the foundry. In later life he writes· "At an age before maturity I found myself owner of a workshop, without mechanical education and with scarcely a mechanical idea." Through intensive study "he developed into a mechanical genius."

The foundry flourished and in 1836 he took on a junior partner, John Henry Towne. Together they established the Southwark Foundry. This "became one of America's outstanding builders of high and low pressure steam engines - - - for land, river, and marine service." Many naval vessels were equipped with Merrick engines. His great plant was on Washington Street (Prime Street in those days) running from 4th to 5th Street and south to Federal Street. He also owned wharves and shipping. The foundry site is now a large, school Playground. Merrick, with his friend, Prof. William Hypolitus Keating, were co-founders of the Franklin Institute. He zealously promoted the building of a railroad from Philadelphia to the west and in 1846 was chosen to be the first president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He also introduced gas lighting to the city in 1834. Before the city was lit by gas there was an horrendous proposal presented to the City Fathers for lighting the city. Messrs Lee and Beach proposed that a tower 300 feet high be built in the center of the city. The illumination will be

> "obtained by burning tar, pitch, and resin over a hot fire of anthracite coals. The light is to be placed at the top of the tower in a glass lantern which shall be 10 to 20 feet in height, flaming a height of 3 feet from the bottom to 15 feet at the top of the lantern. Opinion is expressed that the whole city can be lighted from one such tower."

Other large industries that were developed were sugar refineries and breweries.

In present day Southwark there are still industrial plants and shipping piers. There is still a mixed group of dwellers of divergent national and racial background.

It is not as depressing an area as I had imagined, even though many of the very old houses are now tenements in disrepair. There is a group called the Queens Village Association that is trying to salvage some of the old houses, adequately but at reasonable prices. The idea is similar to that promoted by the Society Hill Association but for the benefit of people with limited incomes.

Washington Avenue, through which a railroad ran for many years, is now a very broad avenue with an interesting and most attractive low-rent housing development on its north side between 3rd and 5th Streets. This has three high-rise apartment buildings, one in which the upper floors are reserved for the elderly. There are also two-story family dwellings and well-designed, well planted, and well-kept grounds. Opposite it on the south side of Washington Avenue is a small park and school playground.

The schools, both public and parochial, look, on the whole, well-housed and fairly well-kept though some of the grade schools look antiquated. A number of the schools have large play-grounds.

There would seem to be, however, very inadequate park areas for those of non-school age.

Two interesting special schools are well worth a visit. The Settlement Music School on Queen Street above 4th, which I have known for many years, now draws, not only students from the neighborhood, but talented young musicians from all over the city and

suburbs. The students range in age from four to adult, of all races and creeds. Some students pay nothing, some 25¢ a lesson, some private lesson fees. Many of our Orchestra members and of the Curtis Institute staff teach here. It provides, not only music lessons, but lessons in art, drama, and crafts. It is housed in a handsome, well-equipped building, given many years ago by Mrs. Zimbalist. The school now has two branches, one in Germantown and one in Frankford.

The other interesting school is the huge, Bok Technical School at 8th and Mifflin. Again a handsome, well-equipped building for vocational training, run by our Public Schools System. According to the man with whom I talked, they offer courses in innumerable trades, from electronics to sewing, from machine-shop work to typing. They draw their pupils from a wide area.

There are two main shopping streets, South Street, which gives the impression of a rather cheap, honky-tonk street, and Fourth Street, which probably most of you know, with its side-walk booths selling everything from birds to dresses, from grapefruit to pigs' feet, from brocade satin to cheap shoes. Washington Avenue, between 8th and 10th Streets, has a thriving and colorful street-side market which, I am told, has delicious fruit and vegetables. I can testify, at least, that it has the prettiest Christmas trees that I saw anywhere.

I recommend to all of you a sight-seeing trip to Southwark.

---

## POETS' CORNER

### SLEIGH BELLS

*By* MARTHA D. TOURISON

Beside the hearth the sleigh bells hang
And wait my touch to sound again
That joyous ring that once we heard
As prancing steed tossed high his mane

Our songs were gay, our laughter rang
Across the fields of glistening snow,
For we were young with carefree hearts
Those Christmas eves of long ago.

"We're going home; We're going home,"
Those singing bells would seem to say
As round the bend to lanterned door
Our Cutter sparked its icy way.

And now the holly spray I twine
Between each shining silver bell.
I'm glad I lived in sleighing years
That now in, only memory dwell.

### AUTUMN IN GERMANTOWN

*By* MARGUERITA PHILLIPS

I love the pattern of the leaves
Fluttered softly down from the trees
The star-shaped gum, the copper beech
Red glossy oak, where owls screech
The yellow fan of ginkgo small
The sassafras ("mitten" and all)
The heart-shaped birch with ermine bark
The flaming maple, from limbs now stark

This glorious galaxy of forms
A cooling autumn landscape warms.
Some people say this season's sad
But as for me, it makes me glad!
They've done their work for every tree
They've breathed for it, for you and me
They're tired now and gone to rest
It's Mother Nature now knows best!
My one regret is, when they go
Their beauty's hidden soon by snow
I wish that when I have to leave
It may be gloriously, like these.

### HOLY NIGHT

*By* ELIZABETH REEVES HUMPHREYS

Even in this age of turbulence
The spirit of that night so long ago
Reaches out to touch the troubled heart
And peace begins to flow

Sifting down through century after century
The love of Christ, its sweetness and its wonder,
Illuminates the world and draws together
What is torn asunder

Oh, let us live within its radiant circle
And walk the upward path that shines with light,
Walk with quickened steps and gratefulness
For the gift of that holy night.

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# John H. Seyfert's Manuscript Book

## Philadelphia, 1820

### Gesprach Zweier Liebenden

**Er** Gieb mir das Blümchen, gieb mir den Kranz;
Ich führ dich Liebchen! Morgan zum Tanz!
**Sie** Lass mir die Blümchen, lass mir den Kranz,
Führ eine andere Morgen zum Tanz.
**Er** Du Liebes Mädchen, Du mir allein
Sollst die Erwählte Tänzerin sein.
**Sie** Was kann es helfen? Soll Ich allein
Dir die Erwählte Tänzerin sein?
**Er** Ewige Liebe schwör ich nur Dir
Gieb mir das Blümchen, tanze mit mir.
**Sie** Schwörst du mir Liebe, folg ich zum Tanz.
Hier ist das Blümchen, nimm auch den Kranz.
**Er** Und mit dem Blümchen schenk mir dein Herz;
Ich mein es redlich, treibe nicht Scherz.
**Sie** Meinst du es redlich, treibs du nicht Scherz,
Mit Kranz und mit Blümchen; nimm auch mein Herz.

### Transmigration

If, my Eliza, it be true
That souls transmigrate when we die
May mine, existing but for you,
For you a rose-bud vivify.
And if by eyes unhallowed seen
By hands profane, approached too nigh,
I'd shrink beneath my thorny screen
And sheltered there indignant lie.
But by Eliza's presence graced
I'd spread to meet her brilliant eyes;
If on her swelling bosom placed
Where love in chaste concealment lies
I'd there display by gayest bloom
Exhaling all my fragrance there
That mingling with her breath's perfume
I might congenial sweetness share.

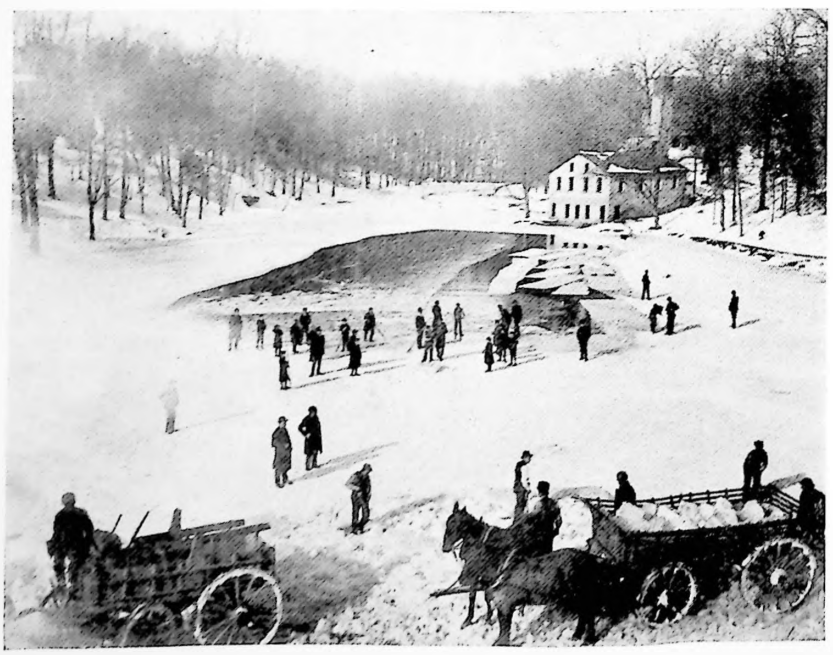



**This book, typical of the period, illustrates the bilingual existence of the early inhabitants of Germantown. It contains much that the student was required to copy as part of his education and several informal sketches. We give herewith literary specimens in English and German, plus one artistic effort. We do not know the identity of Barbara or Sebastian.**

**For further materials from the pen of John Seyfert see the** Germantowne Criers **for March, 1967 and for September, 1963.**

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**CUTTING ICE ON GERMANTOWN WATER WORKS DAM, 1884**

*Photo by Magnell Elliott*

## LEO J. SOMMAR

*REALTOR*

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