GERMANTOWNE CRIER



MARKET SQUARE



IN 1701, Francis D. Pastorius, on behalf of the inhabitants of Germantown, petitioned William Penn for permission to operate a public market every sixth day of the week.

There being no objection, James Logan, Penn's secretary, promptly granted permission under the Seal of Pennsylvania, specifying that the township could choose its own site.

A half-acre of land was purchased from James De LaPlaine, between School House Lane and Church Lane, on Germantown Road. Court records at the time state the land was to be used for a market place and a prison house.

Apparently the need for a prison and stocks was more pressing than the need for a market place. A contract for the prison was let immediately. A market house was not erected until 1741.

The site of the proposed market place was at first called "The Green." But after the market house was built it gradually came to be known as "Market Square."

The prison—made of stout logs—was built near the southeast corner of the square. The market house stood at the northwest corner.

Between market days, the market house served as a storage place for the ladders and other apparatus of the Middle Ward Fire Co., whose engine house adjoined the market shed.

In 1764, a series of Indian outbreaks in the vicinity of Lancaster aroused great hostility toward all Indians. A group of firey-tempered settlers from Paxton Township, in Lancaster County, set out to liquidate every Indian in the country.

A group of peaceful Indians, accompanied by a Moravian pastor, fled to Philadelphia for protection. Several hundred "Paxton Boys" almost caught up with them in Germantown.

However, a delegation of citizens led by Benjamin Franklin confronted the irate settlers and persuaded them to return home. As a last gesture of defiance the "Paxton Boys" took parting pot-shots at the gamecock surmounting the weathervane on the church in Market Square.

President Washington often strolled on the Square and up and down Main st. while he resided at Morris House during the Yellow Fever epidemics of 1793 and 1794.

The Washington's also attended Sunday services at the German Reformed Church across the square from the Morris House.

From "Profiles in History"
By courtesy of J. Malcolm Henderson

see Page–97

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The Germantown Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and promoting the cultural tradition 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.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Privileges of membership include attendance at all lectures, tours and other functions sponsored by Society. We welcome new members and cordially invite your support. Dues: Life—$150.00, Annual—$10.00, Sustaining—$25.00, Family—$12.50, Student (under 21)—$3.00. All members receive "Crier"—subscriptions entered by non-members $2.00 a year. Checks should be made to Society or the "Crier."

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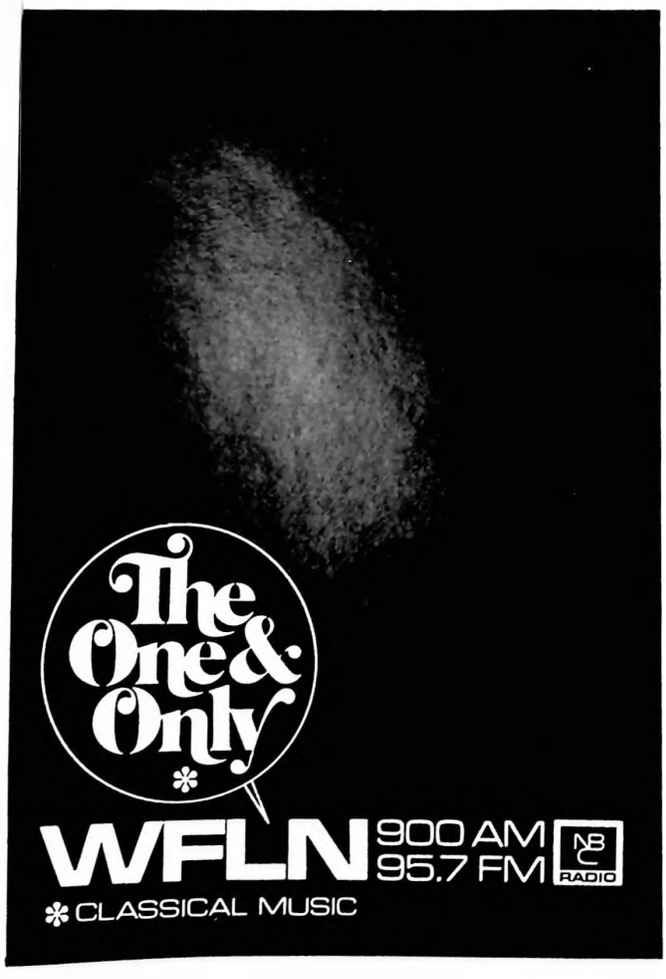
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CONTENTS

	Page
Places of Historic Interest in Germantown ..... *Prepared by the Germantown Historical Society*	97
Mount Airy in Philadelphia: A Pioneering Community ..... *By Phyllis Knap Thomas last of series of four*	99
Trolleys Return to Germantown Avenue ..... *From The History of Trolley Cars, etc., by Septa*	103
An Interesting Doll House ..... *By Anne McCaughey*	104
Gift to "Germantown White House" .... *By Women's Committee*	105
Museum Acquisition ..... *By Margaret Bacon Bostwick*	105
Items of Interest to Germantowners	105
Toby Jugs ..... *By Jean C. Woodruff*	106
Thones Kunder ..... *By M. Bacon Bostwick*	108
The American Woman—We Have Much to Learn About Her..... *By Sue Johansen*	110

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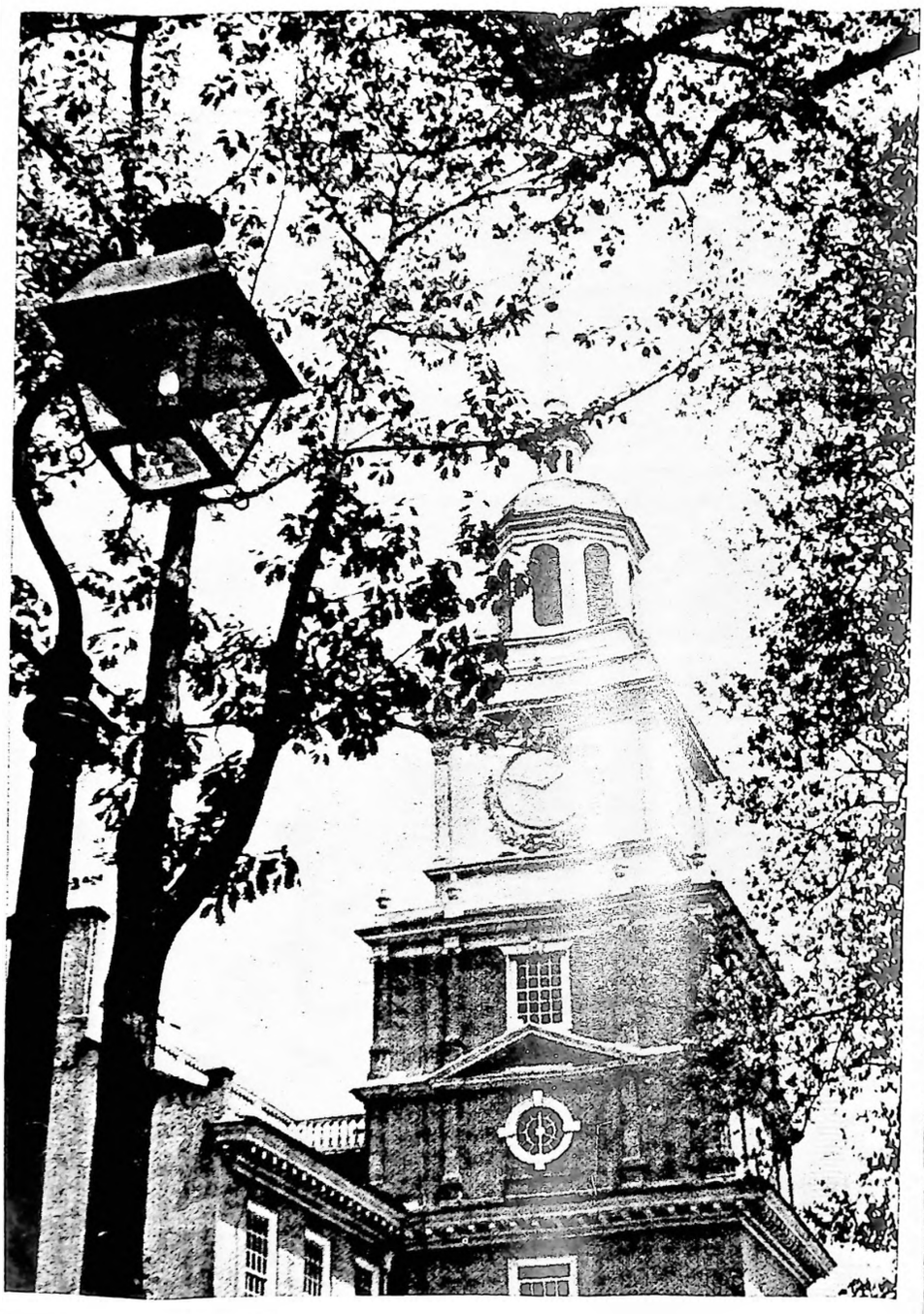
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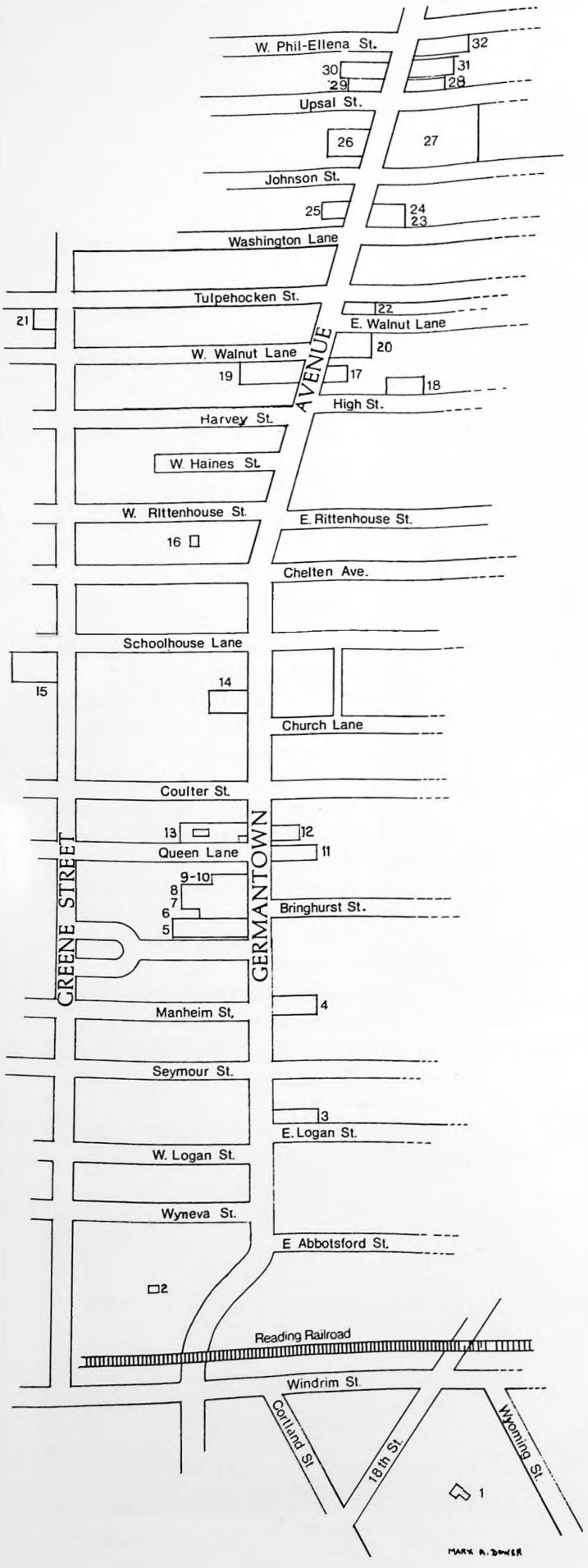
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THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Germantown is famous for its interesting historic sites, many of great beauty and interest. The list of houses (open to the public) includes Stenton, Loudoun, those occupied by the Museums and Library of the Germantown Historical Society and by the Germantown Theater Guild, Grumblethorpe, Germantown White House (Deshler-Morris House), Wyck, Johnson House, Upsala and Cliveden.

1. STENTON—18th and Courtland Streets. Built by James Logan, Secretary to William Penn. 1723-1730.
2. LOUDOUN—Germantown and Apsley Street (Neglee's Hill). Built by Thomas Armat, 1801. Lived in by five generations of his descendants, the fifth also descended from James Logan.
3. LOWER GERMANTOWN BURYING GROUND (Hood's Cemetery), corner East Logan Street and Germantown Avenue. Land presented to Borough of Germantown by Jan Streepers, 1693.
4. Site of THONES KUNDER HOUSE—5109 Germantown Avenue. One of the original 13 settlers of Germantown, 1683. The first formal protest in America against human slavery was issued here in 1688.
5. Site of GILBERT STUART HOUSE AND STUDIO—5140 Germantown Avenue. The Athenaeum portrait of George Washington was painted here.
6. BAYTON HOUSE—5208 Germantown Avenue. Built in 1802. Library of The Germantown Historical Society. Open Tuesday 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
7. CONYNGHAM-HACKER HOUSE—5214 Germantown Avenue. Main building of the Germantown Historical Society's Museum. Built by William Forbes in 1772.
8. HOWELL HOUSE—5218 Germantown Avenue. Built in 1795 by William Forbes. Part of Germantown Historical Society Museum.
9. THE ENDT HOUSE—5222-24 Germantown Avenue. Built middle 18th century.
10. BECHTEL HOUSE—5226 Germantown Avenue. Built 1742.
11. GRUMBLETHORPE (Wister Homestead)—5267 Germantown Avenue. Built by John Wister, 1744. British General Agnew died here after the Battle of Germantown.
12. CLARKSON-WATSON HOUSE—5275-77 Germantown Avenue. Summer home of Matthew Clarkson, Mayor of Philadelphia. Thomas Jefferson and Edmund Randolph, Attorney General, resided here during epidemic in 1793. Home of John Fanning Watson, noted annalist and the first location of National Bank of Germantown in 1825. Now Germantown Historical Society's Costume Museum.
13. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—5300 Germantown Avenue—Established in 1836. SOWER HOUSE—5300 Germantown Avenue, where first type in America was made, 1772 to 1773, and in 1745 the first Bible, in German, was printed.
14. THE GERMANTOWN WHITE HOUSE (Deshler-Morris House)—5442 Germantown Avenue. Built by David Deshler, 1772. Occupied by President Washington in 1793 and again in 1794.
    MARKET SQUARE—The center of Old Germantown, where the Market House, Fire House and Public Scales were for many years.
15. GERMANTOWN-STEVENS ACADEMY—School House Lane and Greene Street. Used as a hospital after the Battle of Germantown. Both Washington and Lafayette visited here.
16. WISTER MANSION IN VERNON PARK—North of Chelten Avenue on Germantown Avenue. Built by James Matthews, 1803. Bought by John Wister in 1812, and named "VERNON."
17. GREEN TREE TAVERN—6019 Germantown Avenue. Built by Daniel Pastorius in 1748.
18. PASTORIUS HOUSE—25 High Street. Built in 1796 by Daniel Pastorius, great grandson of Francis Daniel Pastorius.



see Map on next Page



19. WYCK—6026 Germantown Avenue. Oldest house in Philadelphia—built before 1700. Used as a hospital during Battle of Germantown. Visited by Lafayette in 1825.
20. SHIPPEN-BLAIR HOUSE—6043 Germantown Avenue. Built prior to 1789.
21. EBENEZER MAXWELL HOUSE—Tulpehocken and Greene Streets. Built in 1859. One of the outstanding examples of Domestic Gothic Architecture attributed to Joseph Hoxie.
22. MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE—Germantown Avenue above Herman Street. Built in 1770. It was at this point that General Agnew received his mortal wound.
23. CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE—East side of Germantown Avenue above Washington Lane. Built in 1775 as a school for the residents of Upper Germantown.
24. UPPER BURIAL GROUND—Adjacent to Concord School House. Burial place of many Revolutionary War soldiers, and early settlers. Oldest known grave, 1716.
25. JOHNSON HOUSE (Women's Club of Germantown)—6306 Germantown Avenue. Built in 1768. Here raged one of the hardest fights of the Battle of Germantown.
26. UPSALA—6450 Germantown Avenue. Built by John Johnson in 1798. One of the finest examples of American Colonial architecture.
27. CLIVEDEN—Germantown Avenue and Johnson Street. Built by Benjamin Chew about 1760. The thickest of the Battle of Germantown raged here where the Continental forces were repulsed by the British during the battle. Fine example of Middle Georgian Architecture. Owned by National Trust for Historic Preservation since 1972.
28. BILLMEYER HOUSE—Germantown Avenue and Upsal Street (Northeast corner). Built about 1727. From here George Washington observed the battle at Cliveden.
29. DANIEL BILLMEYER HOUSE—6504 Germantown Avenue. Built about 1790. Rear wing is older.
30. CHRISTOPHER MASON HOUSE—6514 Germantown Avenue. Built 1798.
31. CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, OR DUNKARDS—6613 Germantown Avenue. Built 1770. Mother Church of the Brethren in America.
32. ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—Germantown Avenue and Phil-Ellena Street. Founded 1717. In the Church graveyard lie many well-known personages.

The United States Postal Service was begun July 26, 1775.

Mount Airy in Philadelphia: A Pioneering Community





By PHYLLIS KNAPP THOMAS

This is the fourth and last of the series entitled "Mount Airy in Philadelphia: A Pioneering Community." We hope to have other interesting articles by Mrs. Thomas in forthcoming issues of the "Crier." Editor

Part I. Celebration Then and Now

Mount Airy Day

Balloons soar while eager hands reach for lemon sticks, popcorn, and cotton candy. Here a band plays; there a face-painter creates a colorful flower design on an upturned cheek. Ponies trot obligingly for a never-ending line of young riders. Everywhere people throng past booths displaying handcrafted items such as jewelry and pottery, or tempting baked goods.

Months in advance this day in May has been set aside for the Mount Airy Day Fair, held each year at the Mount Airy Playground at Germantown Avenue and Sedgwick Street. All are welcome to come, look, greet their neighbors, and join the fun—with a shared sense of community pride.

In charge of Mount Airy Day since it began in 1971 is the Mount Airy Day Committee, with representatives from key community organizations, including the East and West Mount Airy Neighbors associations, the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, and the Mount Airy Recreation Center Advisory Council. On May 2, 1976, over one hundred volunteers assisted at the fifth annual Mount Airy Day celebration. There were sixty booths sponsored by almost that many organizations within Mount Airy's boundaries. Crowds numbering in the thousands represented all the diversity of a bicentennial city neighborhood.

Early Celebration

Long ago German settlers along the old Germantown and Cresheim roads gathered together to celebrate the major events of their lives. Weddings and funerals especially became occasions for big feasts. In those days public entertainment of any kind was rare, and most of the social life of the area took place at the villagers' homes.

Always they sang—at work, at worship, and at times of special festivity. Their joyous German songs entertained travelers at the taverns that later became centers of community life.

Singing Schools

As time went on, "singing schools" were started as a pleasant way of bringing neighbors together. One such singing school met on the west side of Germantown Avenue below Duval Street at an old Mount Airy hotel-tavern called the Ship House.

Even the Quakers, traditionally wary of song and dance, found themselves influenced by the music-loving Germans. At the turn of the last century at the Quaker estate of Awbury (where Awbury Arboretum is today, along Washington Lane and Ardleigh Street), Emlen relatives maintained the family custom of gathering every year between Christmas and New Year's for a time of carol-singing.

Spelling Bees

Besides the singing school, a favorite social pastime after the Revolution was the "spelling bee." Until *Webster's Spelling-book* was published in 1783, spelling seems to have been one of the least important subjects taught in the old-fashioned one-room schoolhouse. An adult might even spell his own last name in more than one way!

Now everyone wanted to buy Webster's book. In the Greater Germantown area, as elsewhere, many lively evenings were spent in determined efforts to out-spell one another.

Philadelphia Offered Dancing Parties and The Theatre

After 1750, owners of Germantown country estates who spent winters in Philadelphia could go to the city's dancing parties. Balls were attended in fancy dress: the women in long full skirts, with hair styled high, the men in velvet coats and shoes with silver buckles. A favorite dance was the graceful minuet.

Another social activity that slowly gained respectability in Philadelphia was theatre-going. At first, plays were considered a luxury that only the rich could afford. Today anyone and everyone may see well-acted plays, not only in the center of the city but often in the neighborhood where they live. In Mount Airy, people flock to the friendly atmosphere of the Cafe Theater at Allens Lane Art Center (at Allens Lane and McCallum Street), once an old carriage-house on the Woodward estate. Cake and coffee are served during intermission, and after the performance the cast, director, and audi-

ence have a unique opportunity to discuss the play together.

There Were Famous Visitors

In the old days wealthy families with summer homes in Mount Airy opened wide their doors to large numbers of guests. William Allen and his wife, Margaret, entertained often at their estate, "Mount Airy" (where the Lutheran Theological Seminary is located today, at Germantown Avenue and Allens Lane). Visitors at the Allen mansion during the pre-Revolutionary years could view William's kitchen garden, which was his special delight, or admire his fine collection of Italian-style paintings.

Another center of social activity was Benjamin Chew's Cliveden, still standing at the northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and Johnson Street. George Washington dined there—probably more than once and certainly on August 19, 1787, when he visited the Irish merchant Blair McClenachan, then owner of the mansion.

Lafayette, the French general who had personally supported the American Revolutionary cause, was at Cliveden on July 20, 1825. The occasion was a ceremonial breakfast given in honor of his return to the United States for a visit. At that time battle-scarred Cliveden, which had been restored after the Battle of Germantown by McClenachan, was back in the hands of the Chew family. A sixteen-year-old granddaughter of the former chief justice named Ann Chew was hostess, and a friend and neighbor from Upsala across the street, Ann Johnson, was one of the guests.

Afterward Ann Johnson wrote a letter describing the exciting event. She was introduced to Lafayette twice and shook hands with him three times. When the general departed from Cliveden (to visit "Mount Airy College" on the former Allen estate and Chestnut Hill before attending a public reception at the Wyck house), enthusiastic crowds shouted and a cannon boomed. The noise was deafening!

Always The Seasonal Activities

From the time of the Lenni-Lenape, Mount Airy residents have enjoyed participating in season-related activities, such as swimming and fishing. Once berry-picking and nut-gathering were important group projects. Today the Wissahickon park area provides outdoor opportunities that include bird-watching, picnicking, fishing, horseback-riding, bicycling, and jogging—or simply wandering in the woods. Wissahickon Day, sponsored by the Friends of the Wissahickon every spring, features a parade of horses and old-fashioned vehicles along the scenic carriage drive.

Formerly the winters were colder and there was more ice for skating. On clear, starry nights the young people enjoyed sleigh-rides. In the late 1800's a farmer at Awbury made available for a fee his long bobsled, which was pulled by two horses to the jingle of sleighbells. As many as fifteen young people would ride over the crusted snow to the Wissahickon's Valley Green Inn for hot cocoa, and merrily home again. The inn is still open to the public, where today's children feed the ducks (near the end of Springfield Avenue in Chestnut Hill).

Many Kinds of Entertainment for Many Tastes

As roads improved, Mount Airy residents could travel the short distance into Germantown to a concert or one of the science lectures once so popular. When team sports became important after the Civil War, Germantown was undoubtedly visited by loyal Mount Airy cricket and baseball fans. Historic celebrations, often featuring big parades, also helped to unite the people of the Greater Germantown area. Particularly noteworthy were the centennial of the Battle of Germantown (held in 1877) and the 225th and 250th anniversaries of the settlement of Germantown (held in 1908 and in 1933, respectively).

Mount Airy, like the rest of Philadelphia, found itself caught up in the excitement of the Centennial Exposition of 1876. John Welsh of Mount Airy's "Spring Bank" (the long old house on the west side of Wissahickon Avenue between Westview and Hortter Streets) played a major role in the fair's successful financial management. International exhibits held on twenty-five acres of Fairmount Park grounds during a six-month period attracted more than eight million visitors from around the world.

Some kinds of entertainment could be found close to home. Every spring, spectators used to gather at the Ten-Acre Field (where the Lovett Library stands today on Germantown Avenue's east side above Gorgas Lane) to watch volunteer soldiers drill under the command of Colonel Augustus L. Roumfort. Tents were set up to provide food for the men. Sometimes a mock battle was fought. (In 1826, Colonel Roumfort became head of the school located at "Mount Airy," formerly William Allen's estate. A street nearby bears Roumfort's name.)

A recreation center of the 1860's was Johnson's Hall, a frame building in the section of Mount Airy known as Franklinville. Dances were held there, and the highly skilled magician and ventriloquist Signor Antonio Blitz performed there with his trained canaries.

Early in the 1900's, pleasure rides in the family carriage gave way to pleasure trips in the automobile. Now it was easier for Mount Airy residents to reach desirable vacation spots in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains or at the New Jersey shore.

During the depression years of the early 1930's, people out of work had too much time on their hands. An unemployed Germantown resident, Charles B. Darrow, whiled away the hours by inventing a rather complicated game based on the buying and selling of real estate. On a round piece of oilcloth on the kitchen table he wrote street names from the popular New Jersey resort area, Atlantic City. Although Monopoly did not follow the rules for most other table games (it was too long, for one thing), everyone wanted to play it. Players from the Greater Germantown area and eventually throughout the nation found satisfaction in imagining

themselves rich. Best of all, Monopoly brought otherwise lonely people together for many a sociable hour.

The coming of the mass media drastically affected leisure-time activities here as elsewhere. In our time it is difficult to imagine life without movies, stereo-high-fidelity sets, and especially television. For many local residents the only conceivable way to spend New Year's morning is to watch Philadelphia's Mummers' Parade on the livingroom TV screen!

Neighbor Meets Neighbor

Now when communication is often impersonal, Mount Airy residents respond to the person-to-person emphasis of block parties—get-togethers for people who live on the same block. Talking over a cup of coffee has become an important way of easing some of the tensions that accompany modern life. Annually a number of streets are closed to traffic during neighborly "Walk and Talk" festivities, sponsored by West Mount Airy Neighbors.

Mount Airy Day provides us with still another way of knowing each other better. Which is, after all, one of life's best reasons for celebration.

Part II. History-In-The-Making in Mount Airy's Bicentennial Year

No one can predict with any kind of certainty what will be remembered tomorrow. Here we focus on some of the ways today's residents help build the Mount Airy of the future.
—Author's Note

He was someone you could count on. He was always there; in fact, you could depend on his arriving at board meetings early and welcoming the other board members by name.

A gentleman—black, dignified, warm, slight-of-build and along-in-years—Edgar Baker conveyed to those around him a rather remarkable vitality. By day he worked as the supervisor at a hospital post office. In his spare time he knocked on doors to recruit new members for East Mount Airy Neighbors. He became active on its committees, including its education committee (he had long had a special interest in young people). And whenever he had something to say, people listened, for his judgments were firmly rooted in human experience.

In January of 1973, after a brief illness, Edgar Baker died. Neighborhood association meetings were not the same without his presence as greeter and contributor. The East Mount Airy Neighbors Board decided to create an award in his honor to be known as the Edgar A. Baker Award. This plaque of appreciation would be given from time to time to a person who had shown a like wholehearted dedication to the Northwest Philadelphia community.

So far there have been three recipients of this award: Edward S. Bristol in 1973, Eversley S. Vaughan in 1975, and Rudolf C. Gelsey in 1976.

Edward Bristol, a retired mechanical engineer, has served East Mount Airy Neighbors faithfully as its treasurer since the organization began in December, 1965. (In 1975 Philadelphia's Franklin Institute awarded him its Edward Longstreth Medal for achievements in energy conservation.) Eversley Vaughan, a case worker supervisor for the Department of Public Welfare, has given strong voice to community concerns before, during, and after his four years as president of East Mount Airy Neighbors from 1971 to 1975. Rudolf Gelsey was instrumental in the association's founding. He was then minister of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of the Restoration (Stenton Avenue and Gorgas Lane).

West Mount Airy Neighbors, an older neighborhood organization founded in 1959, has given its Community Award since 1961 to a number of outstanding citizens. Sometimes this award has honored volunteer groups such as the Northwest Community Ambulance Corps (7838 Germantown Avenue) and the Allens Lane Art Center (Allens Lane and McCallum Street). At the Art Center, since 1953, volunteers with a variety of talents have pursued their vision of "living together in the community through the arts."

(West Mount Airy Neighbors was supported from the beginning by local congregations, working together. Active among these was the Germantown Jewish Centre on Lincoln Drive under the vigorous leadership of Rabbi—now Emeritus—Elias Charry. Members of this congregation also undergirded the launching of the Allens Lane Art Center.)

Sharing the Community Award posthumously in 1975 were Judge Raymond Pace Alexander and "Doc" Robert D. Anderson, both well-known Mount Airy residents. Judge Alexander and his lawyer wife, Sadie, won renown for their pioneering efforts in civil rights. Locally the Judge served as founding chairman of the Greater Germantown Appeal, a federation of sixteen community organizations of the Germantown—Mount Airy—Chestnut Hill region. Germantown's new community center at the old Wister house in Vernon Park bears Judge Alexander's name.

"Doc" Anderson held key leadership positions in West Mount Airy Neighbors, Germantown Homes, and the Germantown Community Council. Willingly he tackled whatever needed to be done, from testifying at public hearings to digging the sand pit for a toddlers' playground.

In spite of the universal wish to express, and to receive, appreciation, most Mount Airy volunteers are too busy meeting immediate needs to think about awards. Some support East Mount Airy Neighbors' group homes for retarded persons, headed by Dennis L. Johnson, or its community day care service, led by LaVonne S. Johnson, or West Mount Airy Neighbors' summer camp program. Others serve as Scout leaders at local churches and synagogues, as members of Red Cross disaster action teams, as tutors at neighborhood schools, as visitors at the Stenton Child Center (6100 Stenton Avenue) or at the Lutheran Home for the elderly (6950 Germantown Avenue) and in many other ways.

Needed: "Friendly Visitors"

"Guess how old I am!" said one resident brightly. To the visitor she appeared to be hardly more than eighty. Without waiting for a reply she continued in a tone of honest pride, "I am one-hundred-and-three!"

At the Lutheran Home, staff persons and volunteers work together to make life for each resident as pleasant and productive as possible. Here, as in other large institutions, volunteers are always needed.

Volunteer workers known as Friendly Visitors write letters for residents, read to them, accompany them on walks, or simply encourage them to share treasured memories of the old days. Others lend a hand in the beauty parlor, greenhouse, dining-room, therapy departments, or clinic. Often they assist residents in making handcrafted items for display and sale at the Home's Donation Day in June and Garden Party in September (annual events open to the community). Two popular volunteer-led activities for groups are "News and Views" get-togethers, when residents discuss current events, and informal piano programs, when listeners request their favorite numbers and sing along.

About one-third of those who help regularly on a volunteer basis are Lutheran Home residents themselves, from the apartments for independent living. The other two-thirds come from the surrounding community and suburbs.

A Dream and a Dollar— How the Lutheran Home Began

It may surprise us to learn that this Mount Airy institution of several large buildings began through the efforts of a small number of volunteers! In 1851 Elizabeth Schaeffer was given a dollar by a visiting Lutheran clergyman, Dr. William Passavant, and urged to use it to start a home for orphans here. Eight years went by, but the busy wife of Pastor C. W. Schaeffer at St. Michael's Lutheran Church (Phil-Ellena Street and Germantown Avenue) did not forget the challenge.

In 1859 Elizabeth Schaeffer met with a group of friends who shared her concern about the plight of homeless children. Somehow the women found a way to rent a small house on Germantown Avenue in March of that same year. Within two months seven children were receiving full-time care. More space was needed, and in October the Home moved to its present location (6950 Germantown Avenue).

The Board of Lady Managers became incorporated in 1860. This board served for twelve years before turning over its widening responsibilities to Pennsylvania's Lutheran Ministerium.

The purpose of the Home was to provide for children without homes regardless of religion or race. Although the needs of the young were then most urgent, elderly persons were served, too. Now, however, the Home has changed with the times to focus on the needs of the elderly. The children's program has been moved to Silver Springs Farm in nearby Plymouth Meeting, while the buildings in Mount Airy house only persons who are over sixty-five.

The woman who began the Lutheran Home with little but courage and one dollar has not been forgotten. Today's visitors may see the name of Elizabeth Fry Ashmead Schaeffer inscribed on a wall plaque in the three-storied Schaeffer Building.

Another Woman of Vision— How the Lovett Library Began

Across Germantown Avenue from the Lutheran Home is the Lovett Library, endowed for the use of young people by Mrs. Charlotte Lovett Bostwick in memory of her brother, Thomas. When Charlotte Bostwick started the library in 1887 in a room at Grace Episcopal Church (Gowen Avenue and Ardleigh Street), her friends in the congregation volunteered their help. Today the library serves the entire Mount Airy community as a branch of the Philadelphia Free Library.

Who Are They?

They can be found in Mount Airy and in almost every community. Like others of past generations, they work willingly for hours, days, and even years without pay. They restore park areas, wrestle with housing problems, lead group activities for all ages, attend public meetings and vote, and perform countless other vital tasks.

Young people, homemakers, retired persons, professionals, blue-collar workers, parents, single adults— "volunteers" are individuals, all, but individuals with a difference. One might call that difference the Edgar Baker spirit.

"We live here and our children live here. And that is reason enough to devote our money, our minds, and our energy to . . . achievement for all the people of a greater Germantown."

—Judge Raymond Pace Alexander



Doorways for the Handicapped: The Upsal Day School and The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

You might meet them anywhere in the city—Heidi, the seeing-eye dog, accompanied by an attractive young woman with long straight hair. Or you might see them at the busy Mount Airy intersection of Greene and Upsal Streets on their way back to the Upsal Day School for Blind Children, where Alyse Zee is employed as a social worker.

At Upsal Day School, Heidi walks around quietly with wagging tail, but once outside on a mission she is all business. Although people sometimes offer help, it is usually Heidi who finds the way. Seldom does she make a mistake. She has been known to lead her mistress straight to the front door of a house they have visited only once before.

Because Alyse Zee works mainly with families, visit-

ing is an essential part of her job. She listens understandingly as parents talk about the difficulties of caring for a blind, perhaps multi-handicapped, child. Then she offers counsel based not only on professional knowledge (she has a master's degree from the University of Michigan) but also on her own experience of total blindness since age two. No wonder she is considered one of Upsal's most effective ambassadors of hope!

Hidden behind the Center for the Blind's Rehabilitation Department at 220 West Upsal Street is the Upsal Day School's classroom building, which serves seventy-five to eighty children from a five-county area. A varied day-time program offers boys and girls from the ages of two-and-a-half to twenty-one an opportunity to enjoy their surroundings, to learn new skills, and especially to grow in self-confidence.

Twenty-two years ago the Upsal Day School began—in response to community awareness of an urgent need. *What is going to happen to children too handicapped to be able to participate in the regular public schools?* anxious parents wanted to know. They demanded that the school system do something. As a result, government funds were directed to the Center for the Blind for a special school, to open as soon as possible.

Today the Upsal Day School offers not only individual attention for the blind, multi-handicapped child but also preschool classes for blind but otherwise normal children in need of a "head start." (These children will enter regular schools at the beginning of first grade.) In addition, a team of professionally trained persons visit upon request, without fee, any family with a blind infant or young child. Underlying this service is the belief that the sooner a handicapped child is reached with the best help available, the more hope there is for his future.

An older Mount Airy institution serving the handicapped is the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. In 1820 it began at a pottery shop on Market Street in the center of Philadelphia. The shop owner was David Seixas, the son of a Jewish rabbi. Concerned about neglected children in the neighborhood around his shop who could neither hear nor speak, Seixas did what needed to be done. He took the time to make friends with eleven children—five boys and six girls. He welcomed them into his own home and fed, clothed, and taught them, free of charge.

News of this pioneer venture spread. Under the leadership of Episcopalian bishop William White, the school became incorporated. Leading citizens of the time served as directors, including Reuben Haines of the Wyck house. Over the years the school grew to be the large state-supported institution it is today.

The move to Mount Airy came in 1892 with the need to expand. Henry H. Houston (for whom the Houston public elementary school is named) made available for the new buildings a spacious green campus on the west side of Germantown Avenue north of Gowen Avenue. Today over five hundred and fifty students from preschool age through twelfth grade are taught here, some as daytime pupils but the majority as students-in-residence. A wide variety of teaching methods are used to help these young people overcome the communication barrier.

One early gifted pupil was Albert Newsam, who became a noted lithographer. Other graduates have used their abilities professionally in diverse fields including chemistry, photography, and education, to mention only a few. Many students today are preparing for the future by learning an important trade: printing, working with wood or metal, shoe rebuilding, auto repair, power sewing, business skills, etc. Upon graduation they will have much to offer in a world where everyone's part counts.

From long ago to the present time, people of diverse groups have made their own unique contributions to the Mount Airy story. This heritage of diversity is now ours.

Working together, we continue to build the future.

Acknowledgments

In writing this series of articles on Mount Airy, I am deeply indebted to all who have helped me along the way, especially my family;
—Mrs. Stephanie Wolf, historian, who checked my colonial material;
— Miss Mabel Irle of the Germantown Historical Society Library;
— Miss Helen M. Comly, editor of the *Germantowne Crier;*
— Dennis and LaVonne Johnson, who encouraged this project from its beginning.

TROLLEYS RETURN TO GERMANTOWN AVENUE

After a summer of busses on our famous "Old Indian Trail" (Germantown Avenue) trolleys have returned to Route 23. How many know, or perhaps remember, that Route 23 travels 25.5 miles—Between 10th and Bigler and Germantown Avenue and Bethlehem Pike. Also that it is the longest known trolley car route in the world.

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An Interesting Doll House

By ANNE MCCAUGHEY

Almost everything in the Germantown White House at 5442 Germantown Ave. dates from the 1790s, which was the period when its most distinguished resident George Washington, lived here.

However, in the back room on the second floor of the Germantown White House is another smaller house which is only about 115 years old. This is a handsome doll house which was built about 1860 by the carpenter, T. Keeney, who had his shop in the vicinity of 16th and Cherry Sts. in downtown Philadelphia.

One of the surprising things about this doll house is that it was built not for a little girl but for an invalid woman in her mid-30's. The first owner of the doll house was Ann Warder, who was the daughter of John and Abigail Warder.

At first the Warders lived on Arch St. near 10th, but after the death of her parents Miss Warder, or Cousin Annie as she was known to her relatives, moved to 1703 Race St. and it was while she was living there that she requested Mr. Keeney, the carpenter, to build the doll house. The reason she wanted it was so that she might have something with which to entertain the children she liked to have come to visit her. It would be hard to imagine a child who would not have been delighted to have an opportunity to play with such a fine doll house.

It measures 44 inches across, stands 48 inches high, and has three stories. On the first floor there are two rooms of equal size, a kitchen and a dining room. On the second floor is a single room, furnished as a living room. On the third floor two rooms of equal size, one furnished as a bedroom and the other a nursery.

The front of the doll house is in two sections which can be closed or opened. When they are closed they reveal the numbers 1703 over the entrance which correspond with Miss Warder's address at 1703 Race St.

In each room are furnishings of appropriate size. In the kitchen are such items as two stoves, table, chairs, cupboard and a doghouse, also miniature equipment like pots and pans, various kitchen utensils and a coffee mill.

In the dining room are tables and chairs and a mantel with vases arranged on it. Among the interesting features of this room are tiny books on a side table and shelf.

The books, which are about one and a half inches by one inch in size, bear such titles as Bijou Pictures of Paris, Fanny's Picnic by Aunt Fanny (printed in Buffalo in 1866), Angel Lilly: or Do You Love Jesus? (published by Moore and Nims in Troy, N.Y.). The remarkable thing about these Lilliputian volumes is that, even though the type is small, they can be read and that each of them tells a story, however brief.

The furniture in the parlor on the second floor of the house consists of a divan and seven chairs, one an armchair, all upholstered in deep red velvet. A doll is seated on the divan while another doll, attired in the Quaker mode, is in the armchair. A candelabrum hangs from the center of the room. To one side is a birdcage with a china cat nearby which has evidently been eyeing the cage for the past century or so. A landscape painting hangs over the mantel on which are placed two figurines and a vase. At one end of the room there is a game table with a checkerboard top.

In the bedroom on the third floor along one wall is a bed with a mattress and spread on it. Against the opposite wall is a sleigh bed on which there are a tiny pair of gloves and beaded moccasins. A potty-chair and a chest of drawers are among the furnishings in this room, also a diminutive wooden rack for holding towels with towels of appropriate size draped over it. One can imagine how Cousin Annie's young visitors and later owners of the doll house must have loved to arrange and rearrange these on the rack.

In the nursery is such equipment as a crib, high chair and two easy chairs in which the nursemaid might relax while her young charge was asleep.

An interesting feature is that there are no stairs to connect the three floors. This would have proved a grave disadvantage to residents of a regular house, but it undoubtedly never deterred Cousin Annie's visitors from moving dolls or pieces of furniture from the kitchen to the bedroom, or from the living room to the dining room.

After Ann Warder's death in 1866 the doll house came into the possession of her youngest niece, Ellen Warder Pearsall, who was then a little girl and who lived at 1615 Arch St. There it stayed for some years after her marriage to Charles A. Longstreth and then was moved to her home in Bryn Mawr.

In 1906 Ellen Warder Longstreth gave the doll house to Caroline Cadbury Shipley, wife of William Ellis Shipley of Germantown and daughter of John Warder Cadbury. On Christmas Day 1906 it was given to her daughter, Dorothea Caroline Shipley, who was then almost three years old.

In 1937 the doll house crossed the river to New Jersey where it spent the next dozen years in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Walter Borton in Moorestown. Before her marriage Mrs. Borton was Sarah Carter, daughter of John E. Carter, who in her youth lived at Knox and Coulter Streets in Germantown.

Mr. and Mrs. Borton were close friends of Marriott C. Morris, father of Elliston P. Morris of Southampton. In 1949 when the National Park Service and the Ger-

mantown Historical Society entered into a cooperative agreement regarding the preservation and care of the Deshler-Morris House, the Bortons evidently felt the "Germantown White House" was an appropriate place for the doll house. Since 1950 that is where Ann Warder's doll house has remained to the delight of many youthful as well as adult visitors to the Deshler-Morris House in Germantown.

GIFT TO "GERMANTOWN WHITE HOUSE"

Mrs. John L. Black, Jr., daughter of the late Caroline O. Timamus, has presented eight Nanking ice cream dishes to the Deshler-Morris House to help complete the Nanking dishes listed in Colonel Isaac Frank's inventory at the time of President Washington's residence.

Mrs. Timamus was an enthusiastic member of the Ladies' Committee on the Deshler-Morris House. Mrs. Black's gift is in loving memory of her Mother.

Women's Committee

MUSEUM ACQUISITION

Dr. Kenneth Kuhn, of Hampton, New Jersey made and presented to the Society's Museum a beautiful model of the U.S. Sloop "Germantown." As it is in full sail, it will be a fine complement to the one the late Captain Edmund A. Crenshaw, Jr. made and gave to the Museum. His is, as it were, "in port." The sails of Dr. Kuhn's move and can be set to any desired angle. We are told it took one mile of line to rig it. Everything on the deck is authentic, of course in miniature.

The Germantown Historical Society is grateful and pleased to have it.

Margaret Bacon Bostwick
Chairman-Relics

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ITEMS OF INTEREST TO GERMANTOWNERS

Ground has been broken (at Chelten Avenue and Green Street) for the Regional Public Library. The building is to cost in the neighborhood of a million and a half dollars and will contain some 93,000 books. The Library is expected to open in 1977.

Historical Society's June Garden Party

On a beautiful day in June the Germantown Historical Society's "Garden Party" meeting was held in the garden at "Loudoun." The surroundings were beautiful, the refreshments most enjoyable, served from the Armat stock of silver and china, and flowers in white wicker baskets added to the festive setting.

After refreshments the hostess, Mrs. John W. Farr, Chairman of "Friends of Loudoun," gave the Germantown Historic District Committee's popular slide show, the "Story of Germantown," in Loudoun's spacious dining room.

The party ended the 1975-76 meetings of the Germantown Historical Society on a very pleasant note.

Benefit for Germantown Hospital and American Equestrian Team

The 1976 Gold Cup was run on September 11th and 12th for the benefit of the Germantown Hospital and was dedicated to Mrs. Ralph W. Mays.

The weather was pleasant and the John F. Kennedy Stadium very colorful with a most appreciative audience. The jumps were difficult and there were many clean rounds. Melanie Smith on Radnor 2 won the Gold Cup, the first lady to win this trophy.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Eugene Dixon and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stitzer were Co-chairmen. Mr. Joseph Farrell represented the Germantown Hospital.

Needless to say it was a fine success.

Historic District Committee 1976 Candlelight Soiree

The Germantown Historic District Committee's "Annual Fund Raiser" took place at Loudoun on June 19, 1976. It was a gala occasion—everyone agreed the weather, the house, and the party were beautiful.

The Committee has been trying for the past five years to up-grade Germantown Avenue by working to incorporate the help of schools, businessmen and members of the community in this "fix-up—clean-up" operation. As one member said (and it is the hope of the Committee many feel that way) "As long as I can I will help to return Germantown Avenue to the place it will be a credit to its rightful name the most historic street in America."

Won't you please join us?

Mrs. John W. Farr
Committee Chairman

During the summer of 1976 the east side of Germantown Avenue between Manheim and Wister Streets was leveled along with the Thones Kunder House which was built in the 1680s. Only a part of one original wall and the cellar wall remained. At present the City proposes to erect a low-income complex. Let us hope it will be named after Thones Kunder.

Toby Jugs

By JEAN C. WOODRUFF

Toby jugs are called anthropomorphic pottery (portraying human characteristics to pottery) or because they are made in the likeness of a known or fancied individual or human being.

Sometime in the second half of the 18th Century Toby Fillpot came into existence. Over these many years he has never stopped being produced by many potters all over the world. His name has been borrowed or lent to many personages, most of whom shared his affinity for the "pleasurable" contents of the jug. Face or mask jugs are not included in Tobies, since Toby, to be traditional, would be a seated figure or a standing one . . . the handle attached to the back and if it has managed to survive the years, a tricorn hat, the crown of which was used as a cup. The front pinch in the brim was used as a pouring spout. This was not used to drink from but more or less as a pitcher.

For more than two centuries Toby has been made or copied in so many forms that one can perhaps find reasonably priced jugs but these are rare. Prices have become almost astronomical in this field especially for rare old ones. Copies or later 19th and 20th century are collectible and less expensive for a beginning collector.

Their history begins around 1770 or perhaps earlier when English potters began making a series of jugs modeled like human beings, a bulky old man seated on a chair usually holding a jug of ale or some type of drinking vessel or a pipe. Many characters were portrayed but they are all usually known by the "ordinary" or original model "Toby Fillpot".

Where did he come from and who was first to make this Character in pottery? History of this type of potting goes back as far as the days of the Greek Mythology. Many such models could be found of Gods and Goddesses—Silenus, the fun loving son of Pan, pot-bellied and given to fun and games and to whom the Greek potters gave homage by making a pot-bellied jug in his likeness. Later in the Northern countries, larger jugs to hold ale and beer were made in the likeness of the owners themselves or others. These were made of earthenware or stoneware. At times the jugs, having such a common resemblance that one would imagine them having been made by the same potter. An instance of this is in the one made in buff earthenware covered with green and yellow glaze potted in England. One of these is in the Guildhall Museum in London and another in Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Another crossed the sea to the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and Atkins Museum of Fine Arts in Kansas City.

Makers of stoneware in the Rhineland, in Medieval Germany, potted great jugs on which there appeared in relief, a bearded character with his hands crossed across his middle. Then there were the famous masked jugs . . . known as Bellarmines said to be named for Cardinal Roberto Bellarmino of whom it is said dealt severely with heretics in the low countries. There are many examples predating these perhaps but because of his fame, or notoriety, his name was applied to the jugs during the time of their popular use. The fat likeness of Toby has not been found dating to the Tudor or Stuart periods in England nor from the Renaissance potteries in Europe.

We know of the fame of Staffordshire potteries but are apt to forget that this is a county in England and that potteries were brought into existence here by the Sistern Monks before 1539 at which time the Orders were suppressed. In 1760 there were 80 potteries in the country but by the mid 19th century they had increased to 140. Though figure jugs were made in ceramics, figures were potted much earlier in North Staffordshire. These were made in stoneware, earthenware and saltglaze early in the 18th century. There were soldiers, musicians, even whole bands of these. They were made mostly in brown or perhaps in cream colored clay with a clear glaze.

In or about 1671, John Dwight, a graduate of Christ Church College obtained a royal patent (actually a monopoly) for making stoneware. His pottery was at Stoneham some eight or ten miles from London. Since his ware was called Cologne ware it was thought he might have had some German workmen. From this pottery also came the so-called Bellarmines—a pear shaped bottle with a bearded mask. They were so named after the unpopular German Cardinal. The bottle was mottled brown in color and fairly common, but quite popular. Other grotesque figures were also made in stoneware.

Following these were those made by John Asbury and Thomas Wheildon, with figures so much alike that they are now identified as Asbury-Wheildon, although they did not work in the same potteries. Asbury was at Lane Delf and Wheildon at Shelton, England. Though the Asbury figures were for the most part in brown and cream colored clays, others were in the same colors in earthenware but with glazes containing metallic oxides which are attributed to Wheildon. The colors

"splashed" on in copper for green, manganese for purple and brown and cobolt for blues and gray giving irregularity and variety of colors.

Now we are getting closer to the real "Toby", the turning of figures into jugs as we know them. They are no longer solid pieces modeled piece by piece and put together by a "repairer", but made in shaped molds as were other pieces of hollow-ware. The figure is now seated on a chair, handle attached to his back, with a tricorn hat with pinched brim pourer and the removable crown to be used for a cup, unfortunately not many of these tops survive. These were called pre-tobies and perhaps only about 20 or so are said to still exist. They were called by various names but not Tobies.

The real "Toby" is now about to appear. A pre-toby but larger than the one we know was called a "Rodney". He also acquired a dog which is seen in many of the later Tobies. The "Rodney" was so named because of the resemblance to the features of the "mask jug" commemorating a famous Admiral. Then came the fiddler with the rested fiddle and a beaker raised to the company.

The legend of the "Toby" is said to start from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night"—the Toby who loved cakes and ale and hated to go to bed. It is said this may have been suggested by Lord Macintosh and that the Prince Hal jug represented some 18th century actor playing in the revival of "Twelfth Night".

The real popularity of the Toby came about a century and a half after the play was written and there seems to be no real reason for the connection or why it became so popular The dress of the real Toby is far from the doublet and hose of the Elizabethan days.

The next in line was "My Uncle Toby" of King William's wars and appears in Lawrence Sterne's "Tristan Shandy". The book appearing about the time of the earliest Tobies . . . around 1770. There is still much doubt that this might be the original Toby because of the many differences in the character portrayed. There also appeared other war heroes around this same time done in ceramics.

In early 1760 a print appeared in London depicting a jovial, ruddy old fellow with a clay pipe in one hand, a jug in the other. This was accompanied by verse under the title "Toby Fillpot". The author was unknown, but it was discovered that the verses first appeared in "Original Poems and Translations" in 1761 and were written by the Reverend Francis Fawkes. He was well known as a writer and translator of the period and has been placed among the "lesser poets", his works being quoted by others as late as 1922 and 1933. From what is known of the wide tastes of the Reverend Mr. Fawkes, it must have been interesting to hear his sermons. The verse quoted did not originate with the minister but was a translation from the Italian—although admittedly a "free" one—of Geromino Amalteo, born in Oderzo, Treviso in 1507 and died in 1547. Perhaps the Toby did originate in Italian Majolica from Urbino or other Italian potteries. The translation of the poem made Toby a complete British character, the song a lasting popularity as has been noted into the 20th Century from about 1770, with many versions set to music by many composers. The engraving was by Robert Dighton 1752-1812.

The first identifications were in creamware, or in reliefs in buff or brown stoneware made in Staffordshire, Lambeth and Derbyshire during the 18th and 19th centuries. These have been classified as Toby jugs. A mould for a relief can be found in the Spode-Copeland Museum at Stoke-on-Trent. John Turner who worked at the Spode factory was the collector. This mould, which was evidently a fine one, may have been used by that factory up to 1762 or even later during John Turner's management at Spode or when he set up his own shop at Lane End at a later date. The Copeland firm became the owners in 1803.

There are almost as many suppositions as to the origin of "Tobies" as there are Tobies. The original of the "ordinary model according to John Bedford in his small book on Toby Jugs, published in this country in 1968, was probably potted in the factory of Ralph Wood about 1760 when they started to make figures. This jug was given such names as King Hal, The Planter, Gin Woman, etc. This model is usually ten to eleven inches high and had the widest distribution among all the potteries. There is much speculation as to who the original jug represented and different people saw resemblances to many well known or perhaps notorious men and women of that period. The costume and the accessories are one means of identifying both the person and the period. N. Hudson Moore in "The Old China Book" (1903) describes one of Victorian Era as that of Charles 1, though no reason is given for such a caricature of this King. A likeness of Benjamin Franklin is claimed by American collectors for a Toby known as the "Snuff taker". Why that is so named is also unknown. N. Hudon Moore found this one in New Orleans and dates it back to 1820. 1800-1830 is the most interesting period for discoveries and better and more carefully made ceramic jugs.

During the Victorian Era was a cheaper and less careful period both artistically and materially with poorer craftmanship and poorer taste. The public at this time seemed willing to buy goods made cheaply and by quasi-industrial methods, missing much of the charm of the hand-made of the earlier pieces. Through much of this century Toby was a souvenier type ceramic. In the late 1800 some were made in the United States at Trenton, N.J. by Morris and Willmore and the Ceramic Art Co. During World War One, from 1914-1918, Tobies were made of a number of heroes of this war, also included were those of King George V and Woodrow Wilson. Sir Winston Churchill also appeared in a series. Glazes and colors were copied from earlier ones.

One could go on indefinitely naming characters supposedly modelled in Tobies. They are being made even today, the ones made by Royal Doulton being the best known. These range in size from three inches to much

larger ones—they are carefully made and not inexpensive. Many are modelled after the old ones and there are some contemporary figures. The very small tobies are not being made now by Royal Doulton and the ones still around are bringing or perhaps I should say that Antique dealers at shows are asking astronomical prices for them. I have been told that the markings on the bottom have something to do with the prices asked . . . I suppose the Toby will go on and on as long as there are collectors. They are fascinating and can become a "collector disease". Old ones are getting harder to come by and are to be found probably only in Antique shops and at shows . . . so, good hunting, but be sure to have a full pocketbook.

John Bedford — U.S. publication 1968

Thomas H. Ormsbee — English China and its Marks 1959

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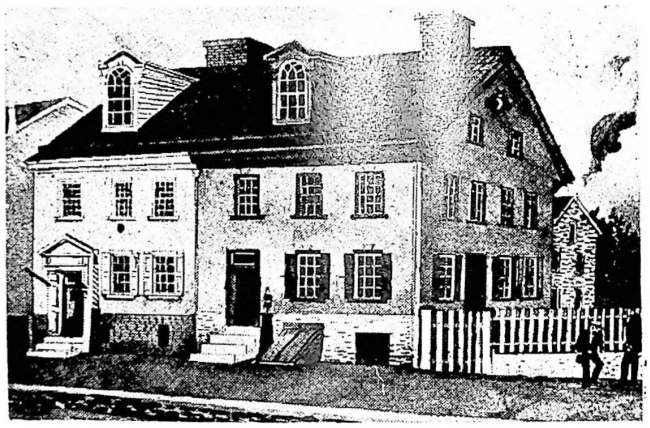
Thones Kunder

By M. Bacon Bostwick

Thones Kunder came to Germantown on the ship "Conrad" with other first settlers of Germantown on October 6th, 1683 from the Palatinate. With him were his wife and three sons. By trade he was a wool dyer, especially in blue.

Many of our readers know Thones Kunder lived in a house at 5109 Germantown Avenue which was demolished in August, 1976. He served as a Germantown Burgess in 1696 and it was in his home that the Society of Friends first met. Here, too, the first Protest against Human Slavery written by Pastorius was signed by Derick op de Graeff, Francis Daniel Pastorius, and Abraham op den Graeff in 1688.

In the back of the building the much hated (at the time) Hiram Lodge of Free Masons held their meetings. They entered by a ladder to the second floor, then pulled the ladder up for their safety.



Thones Kunder's house is no more (1976). Long will his name and his house live in our memory.

Charles F. Jenkins mentions in one of his books that "as far as is known this is the only house of the original settlers to be accurately located. The wall extends back and is about ten feet high."

Thones Kunder died in 1729. His will, dated 1688, was signed Tennis Kundert. Many different spellings and variations of the spelling of his name are to be found. His descendants went to Canada under the name of Cunard and eventually to England to found the Cunard Steam Ship Line.

The Site and Relic Society which became the Germantown Historical Society, erected a plaque commemorating the Protest Against Slavery in 1901, which is now in the Von Trott Annex of the Society's Museum. It reads:

On this site stood the house of
Thones Kunder
one of the 13 settlers of Germantown.
Here was the first meeting place
of the Society of Friends in Germantown.
From the Members of this Meeting
went forth, in 1688, the First
Formal Protest in America against
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The American Woman— We Have Much to Learn About Her

By SUE JOHANSEN



The French and American revolutions provided a great impetus to the women's movement of the nineteenth century. Inspired by pioneering feminists such as Englishwoman Mary Wollstonecraft, American women began to reassess their position in American society. These new attitudes are clearly reflected in "The Young Lady's Book" exhibited at the Conyngham-Hacker house, the Germantown Historical Society Museum.

Published in 1831, the editor's opening words are hauntingly similar to those used by contemporary feminists: "...woman's happiness as well as her sphere of usefulness will be enlarged, in proportion to her opportunities for cultivating the powers with which nature has endowed her:—and the female mind is acknowledged to possess all the faculties, and to be capable of like improvements, with that of man." A course of study which would include scientific subjects as well as the traditional domestic arts was thus advocated by the editor as the means to develop the inherent intellectual capabilities of women. Chapters on entomology, botany, conchology and mineralogy are combined with sections devoted to embroidery, painting and music to create the balance of disciplines sought by the editor.

Principles espoused in books such as "The Young Lady's Book", the egalitarian society resulting from conditions on the frontier, and the early establishment of a public school system in the United States are all factors which have made the experience of American women different from that of women in other western civilizations. "The Young Lady's Book" is only a small part of the untapped information pertaining to women's history available for historical interpretation.

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Girard Bank 111
Groben's Sea Food 94
Hamilton-Reliance Savings Ass'n. 111
Ivy Hill Cemetery 94
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J. Henderson Jones & Wm. J. Niblick 3rd 109
Kirk and Nice 96
Koelle Greenwood Co. 109
Leedom & Wissler 109
Liberty Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n 94
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