

GERMANTOWNE *CRIER*



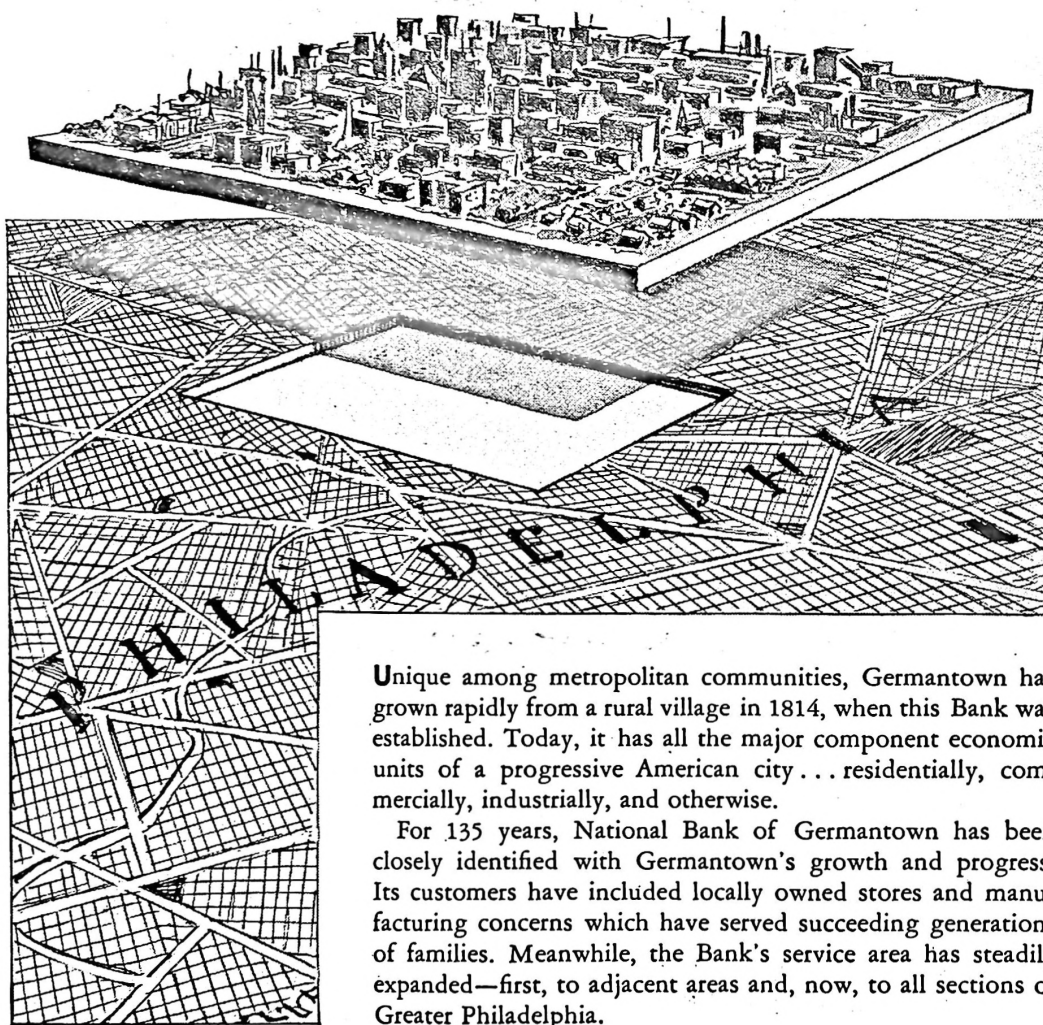
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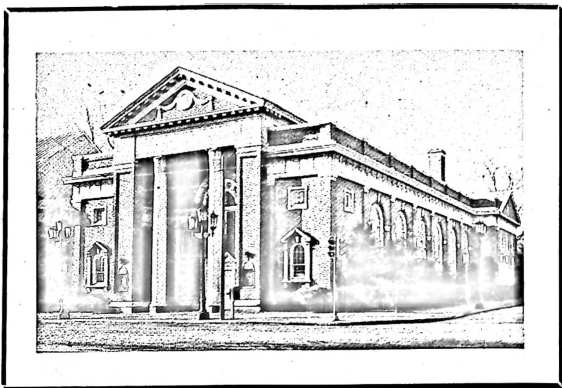
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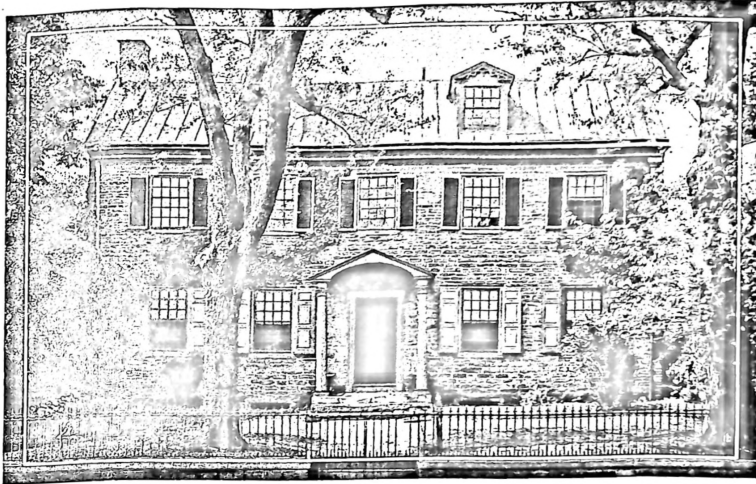
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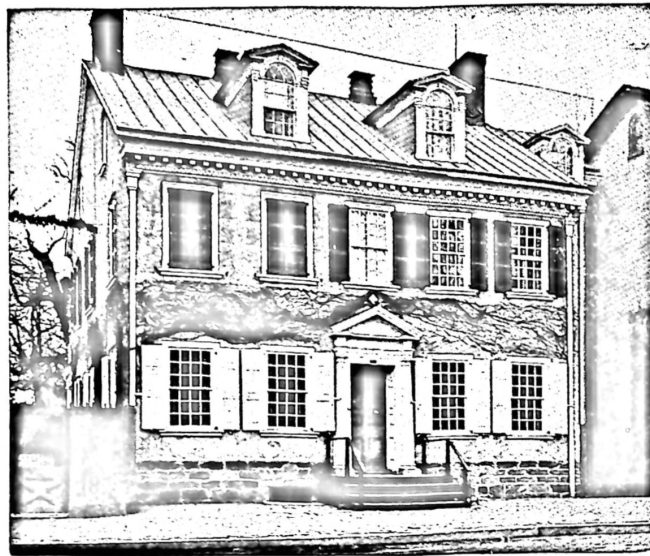
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The President's Message

LEIGHTON P. STRADLEY

SINCE the September issue of the GERMANTOWNE CRIER, progress has been made under the cooperative agreement between this society and the Department of the Interior.

The renovation of the interior of the Morris House has been completed and possession has been given to the society under the terms of the agreement. We have installed a custodian in the living quarters in the rear of the building. Furnishing of the house has begun under the capable management of the Women's Morris House Committee, led by Mrs. Frances Washington Lewis.

The interior workmanship has been excellent and the house presents a most attractive appearance, all in eighteenth century style and as the house appeared in 1793. To accomplish this result, seven layers of paint were removed and the original colors restored. Furnishings, generally will follow an authentic inventory of the house at that time and present a most pleasing picture of a true Germantown Colonial home of elegance, dignity and refinement.

The house will be opened to visitors, Tuesday, December 13th, and every day thereafter between the hours of 2 and 5 P. M., except Mondays, so that residents of Germantown who have been eager to see the interior of the house will have full opportunity to do so.

The society wishes to record its gratification to Northern Liberties Federal Saving and Loan Association for the magnificent restoration of the Ashmead house, adjoining us to the south on Main Street.

It is our hope that this first step by owners adjoining Market Square will induce other owners to follow suit and that our sincere desire to develop this historic square as a National shrine will be largely accomplished in the not too distant future.

GERMANTOWNE *CRIER*



Volume I

DECEMBER 1949

Number 4

Germantown, The Ninth National Capital

LEIGHTON P. STRADLEY

GERMANTOWN shares with eight other colonial settlements the distinction of having served as national capital of the United States before the seat of government was permanently established in the District of Columbia in the year 1800. Seven years earlier, in 1793, Germantown had been the national capital for one month when an epidemic of yellow fever forced the government departments to move from Philadelphia. The executive branch of the government, with all its activities, its offices, and its personnel, functioned in Germantown. Had the legislative and judicial branches found it necessary to meet during the epidemic, it is clear that they would not have held their sessions in Philadelphia, and might well have followed the executive branch to Germantown. The selection of historic Germantown was natural, not only because of its closeness to Philadelphia, but also because of the circumstance that, four years previously, it had been chosen by vote of the Senate as the future permanent site of the nation's capital.

The Constitution of 1789 imposed on Congress the duty of selecting a permanent residence for the seat of government of the newly formed United States of America. During the first session of the First Congress the House of Representatives passed a bill calling for a site on the Susquehanna. In the Senate Robert Morris, the senior Pennsylvania Senator, moved to amend the bill to name Germantown the permanent capital. This amendment was passed when Vice-President Adams cast a tie-breaking vote in its favor. In the House, however, James Madison of Virginia, an advocate for a location of the site on the Potomac, succeeded in attaching a rider to the bill providing that, until Congress otherwise indicated, the laws of Pennsylvania should apply to the Federal district. This made it necessary to return the Bill to the Senate for action on the rider, and before action was taken the Senate adjourned its first session. Be-

tween the first and second sessions of the First Congress, there was a change of sentiment among the Congressmen arising from the controversy over Alexander Hamilton's financial measures. Due to the fact that the permanent residence of the capital and Hamilton's financial proposals were debated together, a compromise was necessary. By that part of the compromise which dealt with the site of the capital, Philadelphia was designated the temporary capital and the site on the Potomac was to become the permanent residence. Thus vanished Germantown's golden opportunity to be the permanent capital of the United States.

After the federal government had been set up in Philadelphia, the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 made it necessary to close government departments in the city. Refugees from the city were not permitted to enter most of the surrounding towns, although Germantown had no restrictions in this respect. As a consequence the various government departments removed to Germantown in the middle of September, and remained there until December 1, 1793. For this period Government departments ceased to function in the City of Philadelphia, and governmental activities were carried out in Germantown.

At this time Washington and the members of his cabinet took up residence at or near Germantown. The President left Philadelphia on September 10 and returned to Mt. Vernon. He came to Germantown on November 1, 1793 and established headquarters at the home of the Reverend Frederick Herman, 113 West School Lane, a building west of the Germantown Academy, and presently on the Academy grounds.

Edmund Randolph, Attorney General, removed to Germantown and occupied the Spencer property on Mill Street, or Church Lane, one mile east of Main Street. On September 8, 1793, Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, left Philadelphia and moved to a house along the Schuylkill. After a visit to Monticello

he established quarters at King of Prussia inn on Germantown Avenue. General Knox, Secretary of War, and Oliver Olcott, Jr., auditor of the Treasury, secured the house of Dr. William Smith, near the Falls of Schuylkill and opened up temporary offices of the Treasury Department. Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, first went to New York, then to Albany, and finally returned to Fairhill, about two and one-half miles from Germantown.

A Cabinet meeting was held at Washington's headquarters on November 8, 1793. At this meeting the entire Cabinet was present, consisting of Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, General Knox and Edmund Randolph. Thomas Jefferson in his letters from Germantown has recorded the various Cabinet meetings which he attended. These records indicate that matters of serious national import were considered at this and subsequent meetings of the Cabinet at Germantown.

In the early part of 1793, war had broken out between England and France. There was a great deal of agitation in this country, fanned by the unscrupulous efforts of French Citizen Genet, to align this country with France against England. At this meeting in Germantown the Cabinet discussed the matter of Genet's conduct. Hamilton and Knox were in favor of asking the dismissal of Genet, and Randolph and Jefferson were opposed. No decision was reached at this meeting, although subsequently the French Ambassador was handed a request for the recall of Genet.

Our relations with England were strained at this time as a result of the failure of the Treaty of Peace of 1783 to provide for the evacuation of the British forces on the frontier. Further, the British Minister had registered many complaints on the capture of British vessels by French ships which had been fitted out in our ports and which then preyed on British shipping in neutral waters. In June of 1793 the British began to stop neutral ships laden with corn or flour and to send them to English ports for sale.

Our relations with Spain were also strained because of aid given by Spain to the Creeks and other Indian tribes who were committing outrages against settlers of Georgia and the southwest territory. A serious controversy had arisen over navigation on the Mississippi River, which had been closed to our shipping by the Spanish.

Thus Washington, who had been concerned principally with internal affairs during this first term, found himself in this first year of his second term faced with serious problems in foreign affairs. In April he issued his famous Neutrality Proclamation in which he took the position that, since the nation was at peace at the time Congress adjourned, it would have to remain so until Congress exercised its constitutional prerogative of declaring war. This Proclamation was the first declaration of any kind issued by this government.

All of these matters received the attention of the

Cabinet at an early November meeting in Germantown, especially in connection with the preparation of the President's address to Congress, which was to meet on the first Monday of December, 1793.

Further Cabinet meetings were held almost daily at the Morris House. On November 21, 1793, discussion was continued on the presentation of the Neutrality Proclamation to Congress. At this meeting the establishment of a United States Military Academy was proposed. On November 23 there was further discussion of this proposal, and at a meeting on November 28 it was definitely decided that Washington should recommend the establishment of such an institution in his coming speech to Congress. As a result of Washington's recommendations, the United States Military Academy at West Point was established some years later. Thus the idea for the Academy sprang from these meetings and discussions in Germantown.

During the war between England and France numerous instances arose in which shipping of belligerents was seized along our coast and taken into our ports as prizes. The question of the limits of the jurisdiction of this country over the adjoining ocean waters became very important. One of these meetings of the Cabinet in Germantown resulted in a proclamation by which the legal limit was fixed at one sea league or three geographical miles, to be measured from the low-tide water line. Foreign powers were notified of the proclamation, but in Jefferson's notice this country reserved the right to reopen the subject at any time and fix greater distances from our shores. Later on there was consideration of extending our neutral waters to the Gulf Stream, but this was not pressed, and the previously announced limit of one sea league was maintained. This has become a settled principle of International Law and it emerged from these meetings in Germantown.

When the question of jurisdiction first arose many limits were suggested, including twenty miles, the utmost range of a cannon shot (usually fixed at one sea league), and three sea leagues. On this subject Mr. Jefferson, in his letter of November 8, 1793, from Germantown, observed:

"It is certain that, therefore, they have been much divided in opinion, as to the distance from their sea coast to which they might reasonably claim a right of prohibiting the commitment of hostilities. The greatest distance to which any respectable assent among nations has been at any time given, has been the extent of the human sight, estimated at upwards of twenty miles; and the smallest distance, I believe, claimed by any nation whatever, is the utmost range of a cannon ball, usually stated at one sea league. Some intermediate distances have also been insisted on, and that of three sea leagues has some authority in its favor."

In the interests of conservatism therefore the distance of one sea league was adopted. Since rivers and

(Continued on page 27)

"Roxborough Plantation" 1705 to 1840

"Carlton" 1840 to 1948

KATHERINE RICHARDSON WIREMAN

The beautiful white house, "Carlton," at Midsale Avenue and Stokley Street, has been torn down, and its gardens and drives leveled to make way for four-family dwellings. The finest estate in the Queen Lane section of Germantown is a thing of the past.

WE HAD known that "Carlton" was old, rebuilt in 1780, but how much older was it? What part of the mansion had been left standing in 1777 after the battle of Germantown, and what had become of the older farm house of 1705? Seeking answers to these questions while there was yet time, we, of the Germantown Historical Society, plodded through deep snowdrifts to the door.

A reporter and a photographer, sent by a Philadelphia newspaper, joined us at the entrance and helped to raise the weighted evergreens which bowed across the way as if to hide from us the sights within, for the wreckers had come early. The sound of splintering wood made us pause in the hall and sent chills of another kind to add to the bitter cold outside. With sinking hearts we gazed at cornices, paneled stairway, balustrade, and Colonial windows with panes of old blown glass, and became spellbound in admiration of the beauty produced by ancient craftsmen, forgetting everything, until the chills seeped in and prodded us to action.

Needing sanction for our intrusion, we mounted the stairs toward the sound and were stopped at the second floor by a pile of rubbish rapidly being made larger by armfuls of lath and plaster flung from above. At our calls a dim figure appeared through the dust overhead and we shouted our purpose. The figure indicated an answer with shrugged shoulders and outspread hands giving us liberty to go where we pleased and noting the futility of an advance in the direction of the noise, which stopped for an instant and he managed to be heard, "Hand-split lath, 'tis a pity, so strong, help yourselves," he called.

We stooped to pick up pieces scattered on the floor and examined cut edges. "Hand-split lath," we said in awe, "a pity, so strong." This refrain, from other voices, was to follow us throughout the house.

Barred from the attic, we went past white paneled doors, their brass lock-plates and knobs still bright from years of polishing. Over the wide floor boards



CARLTON

we walked through spacious rooms, one after another leading through the wings. Great windows all around let in the outside and we began to remember things we had read and heard.

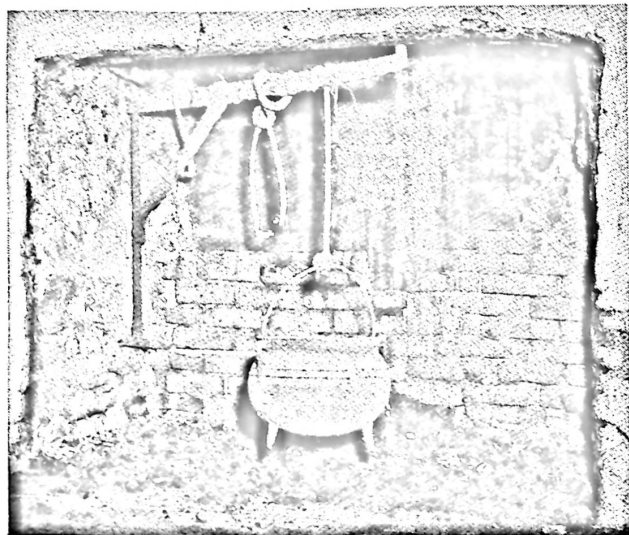
"Roxborough Plantation," a plateau east of Schuylkill river and sloping to its banks near Falls. A grant of land made by William Penn in 1682. The accounts of its extent, and to whom given, but it seems to have come through many transmissions into the possession of Jan Vandervoerstyne, built on it the first house, some say as early as 1682. When he sold the property in 1721 "a messuage tenant" was mentioned in the deed.

In 1771 Henry Hill, a well-to-do merchant, bought the plantation for a country seat. Tradition says: he placed his mansion on the foundations of the farmhouse and retained some of the original structure. Whatever Henry Hill did seems to have been done with care. He erected a town house for himself in 1786. The house became famous later as a residence of Dr. Phillip Syng Physic, the father of American surgery, and stands today a reminder of these two men, at 321 South Fourth Street.

Looking at the solid walls of stone and the masterful woodwork in the central building of "Carlton," we began to wonder if this were not the same structure viewed by George Washington when he rode from Philadelphia, as he noted in his diary on September 18th, to dine with Henry Hill "about five miles from town." That September, 1774, the Continental Congress was meeting in Carpenter's Hall and Washington had come from Virginia to join them. He was to visit Henry Hill a few days later on a less happy occasion.

Thinking of this we went to a south window where paneled inside shutters covered the old glass in the lower sash. Each of the narrow shutters had ten hinges, at least eight hinges to the set. Folding them back against the casing we looked across the lawn to Indian Queen Lane. There lay the old plantation from Germantown to Robert's Ferry. No wonder the plantation was a convenient place for army headquarters, stop, extending as it did on each side of this highway.

The Continental Army arrived August 1, 1777, and camped there until August 8th, giving Henry



Old Basement Fireplace, Carlton

a chance to see how much an army needed to eat, for in 1779 he subscribed five thousand pounds to the Pennsylvania Bank, an institution organized for the purchase of provisions for the Continental Army.

Young Marquis de Lafayette, writing about a review of troops he witnessed at this camp said, "about 11,000 men, ill-armed, and still worse clothed," and went on to describe, "their clothes were part-colored and many of them were almost naked; the best wore hunting shirts, large gray coats which were much used in Carolina." In a few weeks this ill-equipped army was to meet the British regulars on the Brandywine meadows, and Lafayette was to suffer his first wounds on American soil.

After the battle of the Brandywine the army returned to Hill's plantation for two days in September, crossing the river again before General Knyphausen occupied the house as his headquarters in October and stationed his Hessians along School House Lane from Germantown village to the Schuylkill. Colonel Henry Hill did not act as host for the Hessian general in 1776. He became a member of the original city troop and commanded a battalion of the associates. His house suffered damage in the battle of Germantown. A tablet placed in an old stone wall near the road bore this legend, "Ruined by the War 1777. Rebuilt more firmly 1780 by the Trusty Isaac Tustin."

Henry Hill married but his wife predeceased him and they left no descendents. He was an important man in Germantown, being one of 16 delegates to vote in the election of July 4, 1776, as representatives of Philadelphia City and County. He was a Colonel in the army at the time the troops were stationed at "Carlton." Later he was president of the board of trustees of the Germantown Academy and was one of the board who called on George Washington to offer him the rental of the Academy at \$300 for one session of Congress. His sister was Margret Hill

Morris, whose diary Mr. John W. Jackson so ably edited and supplied with references.

Many others occupied this house after Hill's death of yellow fever in Philadelphia. One young woman left a record on a second floor window-pane, etched with her diamond—"R. Lee, Roxborough 1829."

The name by which the house has been known for the last hundred years was given to it by Mr. Cornelius Smith who purchased it in May, 1840. It is said that he honored his wife, Elizabeth, by calling it "Carlton" after one of Queen Elizabeth's castles. Their grandchildren were the last to live in the house, generously opening it for the benefit of worthy causes, giving others a chance to enjoy its grace and charm and the unforgettable hospitality of the host and hostess on these occasions. Shorn of the elegant furnishings the rooms were still impressive; cupboards, mirrors, and mantles, evidently of a later date blended well with the older moldings and panels.

Going through large kitchens, the kind not built today, we descended to the cellar. Here history spread before us as in period rooms in a museum. We walked into old rooms, two of them, and one of our questions was answered. There was no mistaking that they were the remains of the old farmhouse, adzed beams, five-foot-wide fireplaces built of old brick, the ancient iron cranes still solidly fastened in their walls. In one room the brick oven was undamaged and an iron kettle with legs stood on the hearth. The other room had been altered to make way for a passage and the oven was gone but the fireplace with crane intact was there. We could see the ends of old walls and ceilings against newer plaster, and where old boards ended on the floor and newer ones had been added, feeling all the while as though we were stepping through one century into the next.

It took the beams of a flashlight to show us the wine cellar under the south porch. The light spread out over the beautifully vaulted brick ceiling and slid down the brick wall to the flat brick floor, different brick from that in the fireplaces, narrow and dark from dampness. We peered in, sniffing the air. Could that be the aroma of "Hill's Madeira Wine"?

Henry Hill had been taken by his parents when he was seven years old from his birthplace in Maryland to the Island of Madeira, where he was educated as a merchant. Coming to live in Philadelphia and trade in the Seven Seas, he imported the wine which became the choicest in the Colonies' and a particular favorite with Philadelphians. George Washington wrote, "I drank Madeira at a great rate and found no inconvenience in it."

In another cellar our flashlight disclosed a trap door in the floor. Raising it, we went down ladder-like steps into a room below. Advancing years, it seemed, had made the house a "station" for the "underground railroad," and this room we were told had been used as a hiding place for runaway slaves.

Under the west end of the main house was a Harkin-

(Continued on page 25)

Washington, Jefferson and Lafayette in Germantown

CAROLYN PITTS

WASHINGTON'S first visit to Germantown occurred during the war when he was encamped on the outskirts of the town, August 1, 1777. While here he stayed at Stenton, built in 1728 by James Logan and then in the hands of Dr. George Logan, James Logan's grandson. After the Battle of Brandywine, Washington was again in Germantown, this time staying at Henry Hill's House (later "Carlton"—now destroyed). On October 4, 1777, the day of the Battle of Germantown, he stood on a horse block in front of the Billmeyer House at Germantown Road and Upsal Street watching the Battle around the Chew House, a few hundred yards away (the spy-glass used on the occasion is at the Germantown Academy). General Howe then occupied Stenton.

On Sunday, July 8, 1787, Washington again revisited Stenton—he was then presiding over the sessions of the Constitutional Convention.

Elizabeth Drinker recorded many anecdotes about the yellow fever epidemic that plagued Philadelphia in July of 1793. Washington left Philadelphia to reside at Mount Vernon. Germantown became a retreat for those escaping the plague as it was thought the air "was purer" in the outlying suburbs. Many prominent Philadelphians rented Germantown homes—many details of which were recorded with great care by Mrs. Drinker. In November, 1793, Washington returned to Germantown and from the first to the tenth lived at 130 West School House Lane, then the home of Reverend Frederick Herman (Dove House).

"The walls of the house are of great thickness, and in making alterations, some years ago, it was found that the stones would break before the mortar which bound them together. Except for some changes in the front and addition of porches, the size and shape of the house are very much as they were then." The old Pennsylvania marble front steps are still in use, and the floor of the ancient stoop has been included in the modern porch. In the rear yard, near the School yard line is a beautiful horse chestnut tree of great size and splendid proportions, which tradition has persistently said was planted by Washington.

Meanwhile, Jefferson (who had journeyed with Washington), had gone to the King of Prussia Tavern, a leading inn of the time in Germantown, which he found still crowded with Philadelphians afraid to return to their city homes. The tavern had been opened as a house of entertainment by Andrew Wickeser in 1757, and for a number of years it had

been the Germantown terminus of the tri-weekly stage from Philadelphia. The old sign, which is still preserved, had displayed on it, seated on horseback, the then popular King Frederick, a representation said to have been painted by Gilbert Stuart while the latter was a resident of Germantown. The picture was painted over, and in more modern times, until it was taken down, it bore simply the words, "King of Prussia." Here the Secretary of State of the United States was able to get a bed in the corner of the public room, and that "as a great favor," he says. The other alternative was to sleep on the floor before the fire wrapped in his cloak. "In this state I am waiting," he writes his son-in-law, Thomas Mann Randolph, "till some of the Philadelphians may take courage to go into the city and make a vacancy here."

He says in a letter to his friend, James Madison, written the day after his arrival, that Germantown could not lodge a single person more, and that "cuddies" without a bed, and sometimes without a chair or table, rented from six to eight dollars per week."

Mr. Jenkins further comments on the Inn in his *Guidebook to Historic Germantown*—"In the rear there formerly stood a large barn which was used as a slaughter house by the British at the time of the Battle. The first stagecoach with an awning was run from the King of Prussia to the George Inn, Second and Arch Streets. About 1834, its use as a tavern ceased." The buildings that once occupied 5516, 18-20 Germantown Road are now gone—but old photographs in the Germantown Historical Society show that the Inn had a high, steeped roof and stood three stories high. The old doorway had a well proportioned pedimented doorway; it contained a plain fan light, probably quite handsome in its day. The following advertisement appeared in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, December 15, 1757, when Andrew Weckeser opened the Inn:

"Andrew Weckeser begs leave to inform the Publick, that he has opened a House of entertainment in Germantown, at the Sign of the King of Prussia, near John Jones, Esq.: Where all Gentlemen, Ladies, Travellers, and company may depend on the best usage. Their favors will be gratefully acknowledged by their humble servant.—Andrew Weckeser."

There are two or three photographs in existence of the interior, showing the beautiful mantles and wood-work.

"In November, 1793, Washington made his home in the residence of Colonel Isaac Franks (now the Morris House on Market Square—5442 Main Street). A description of the place from a contemporary advertisement gives a pleasant picture of its location and surroundings:

"A house and lot situated on the west side of Main Street in Germantown, an airy, high position, commanding an agreeable prospect of the adjacent country. The house is 45 feet front, and forty feet deep, two stories high, four rooms on the floor, all furnished in the most elegant manner; there are also suitable back buildings, all in good order, and a pump of excellent water in the yard. The lot contains about two acres, on which is an orchard of the best grafted fruits of various kinds, and a large garden pailed in." The house was built in 1772-3 by David Deshler and it is said that it would have been wider had not Deshler wanted to spare a plum tree which stood at the side. Sir William Howe had his headquarters here in 1777, after the Battle of Germantown.

Colonel Frank, kept detailed accounts of the transactions and was as fastidious as Washington himself about business matters. The following inventory was originally obtained from a copy in the possession of Elliston P. Morris and was printed by Mr. Jenkins in *Washington in Germantown* (pp. 114-116).

COLONEL FRANK'S INVENTORY OF THE FURNISHINGS OF HIS HOUSE WHEN GENERAL WASHINGTON LEASED IT

First Right Hand Room (North Room)

Curtains, 2 blinds, 2 winer blinds, Do. Do. curtains, one looking glass, six chairs with chintz bottoms, one looking glass 1 Dining table, one breakfast table, one open stove, one pair of plated candlesticks, Double set of Nankin China 72 pieces, 1 large waiter, 1 snuff tray, 1 pair hand irons, shovel and tongs, 1 plated goblet pint cup with two handles, 2 large pictures.

First Left Hand Room

2 chintz winer curtains, 1 Green Blind, 1 looking Glass, 2 Gerandoles, 1 Dining table, 2 Mahogany Arm Chairs, 8 Mahogany stuffed Bottom chairs, 1 pair large Hand Irons, shovel and tongs, 2 Gerandoles, 4 pictures, 1 pair plated candlesticks, 1 set Mantel china, 82 Rails, 15 posts.

In the back room adjoining

One c. Table, 4 window chairs, 2 small pictures, China in the closet, 2 china plates, 2 plates sauce boats and china chocolate pot, 1 plated castor, 1 large China Tureen, 1 china punch bowl, 1 china sugar dish, 1 pair of hand irons, shovel and tongs—brass.

In the First Kitchen

1 English guttered gridiron, 3 flat brass candle sticks, 1 spit, 1 flesh fork, 1 egg slice, 1 cullender, 3 iron ladles, 1 iron ladle and dredging box, 2 funnels, 2 graters, 1 pair Snuffers, 1 quets Tankard, 1 pint mug, 9 flat irons and stand, 1 cheese Toaster, 1 iron fork large, 3 patty pans, 1 Table, 1 chair, and 2 benches and one Tamil, a corner cupboard, one picture, one coffee mill, 1 black pitcher, 3 coffee pots, 1 tin, 1 china, 1 large copper, 4 Decanters, 9 Elegant Wine glasses, 6 cups and saucers, 1 Milk pot, 1 mustard pot, 1 slop bowl, 1 tin Kettle with cover, 32 plates, 4 large dishes, 2 gravy Tureens, 1 salt box, 1 salid dish.

Up Stairs, in the bed chamber on the right hand

One bed stead and curtains, one bed bolster and pillows, 2 blankets, a green rug and a white counterpane, 1 looking glass, 1 Bureau, and cover, 1 pair hand irons, shovel and tongs, one carpet and fine side carpet.

In Bed room opposite

One Bed stead, 2 Beds, 1 Bolster and pillows, one pair sheets, one pair pillow sheets, 6 blankets, one chintz bed stead, 1 looking glass, 1 Table, 1 Arm chair, 4 chairs with covers, 1 carpet, 1 mahogany chest and drawers.

In Back Kitchen adjoining

1 Tamil, 1 Table, 3 chafing dishes, 1 lantern, 2 frying pans, 4 iron pots, & 1 iron cover, 2 chairs, 3 pails, 1 Table, & ironing board, 2 Tea Kettles, 4 candlesticks, 2 copper Kettles, 1 Tin Mug, 1 pepper mill, 2 pair of irons, 2 pair of pot hooks, 1 sand sieve, 1 rolling pin, 1 pair of bellows, 2 pair of pot hooks, 1 large copper sauce pan, 1 quart black mug, 1 bench, 1 brass washing kettle, 3 wash tubs.

In Back Room

2 chairs, 1 writing desk &, and Table.

In Stable

2½ tons of hay, 1 cart, 1 open stove, 1 six plate stove, 27 fowls, 20 ducks, one Iron fender.

"\$2.50 for cleaning my house and putting it in the same condition the President received it in. — The breakage by the tenant is figured in shillings and pence and is as follows:

In addition Colonel Franks noted:

	L	S
"For damage done to a large Japanned waiter made use of in the service of the President.....	0	6
One large fork.....a 2 6.....	0	2.6
Four plates.....a 1.....	0	4.
To 3 ducks.....a 2 6.....	0	7.6
4 Fowls.....a 1 9.....	0	4.
1 bushel potatoes.....		
One hundred of hay.....	0	6.
	L 1.	12.10

1. Jenkins, Charles F., *Washington in Germantown*.

2. Jenkins, Charles F., *Guidebook to Historic Germantown*.

This reduced equaled \$4.40. All these charges, added to the rent of \$66.66 made a total of \$131.56. It seems, however, that Washington, whose care in accounts could not be exceeded by that of Colonel Franks, was not satisfied with all the charges, for the bill was not settled for nearly four months after the President's return to the city, and then by a total payment of but \$75.56."

"The experience of Washington in the Morris House having apparently been satisfactory, he arranged with Colonel Isaac Franks to take it for a period of about six weeks in 1794. While ostensibly the object was to escape the heat of the city, there can be no doubt that the fear of a return of the yellow fever had its influence on making a home in the country desirable. On this occasion Mrs. Washington, and her two grandchildren, Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, accompanied the President. It will be remembered that Edmund Randolph, writing of the house in 1793, stated that it was poorly furnished. To make it more habitable two loads of furniture were sent from Philadelphia, and on July 30th the family moved out."

"General Washington while residing here in 1793-94 was a frequent walker abroad up the Main Street, and daily rode on horseback, or in his Phaeton. So that everybody here was familiar with the personal appearance of that eminent man. When he and his family attended the English preaching, in the Dutch Church, at the market house, they always occupied the seat fronting the pulpit. It was also his own practice to attend the German preaching thus showing he had some knowledge of that language. His home was closed on the Sabbath, until the bell tolled, when it was opened just as he was seen coming to the church.

Germantown's Victorian Past

JOHN HARBESON

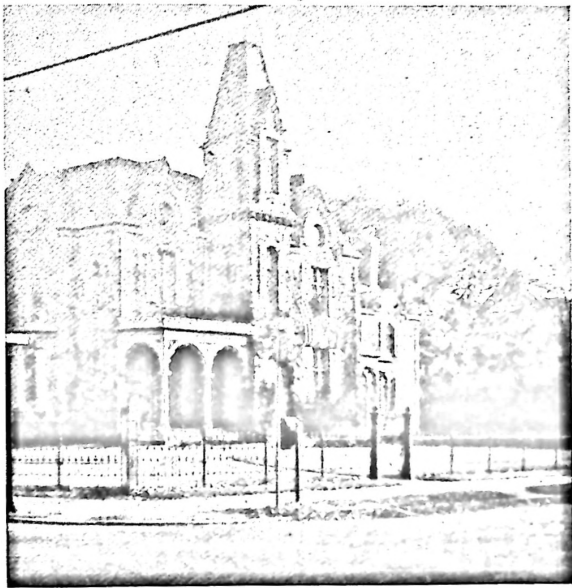
IN REVOLUTIONARY days Germantown was an important village, the site of a number of fine homes of early American architecture, set amid trees along tree-lined avenues. It was an age of handicrafts, of skilled masons and carpenters—but with few of the conveniences now considered requisite for comfortable living: these were introduced in Victorian times.

Queen Victoria's long reign, from 1837 to just after the turn of the century, was synchronous with the rise of industrialism in this country, a time of invention of creature comforts, such as indoor plumbing and bathrooms, central heating systems and efficient artificial lighting, first by gas and later by electricity. Houses for the first time were really comfortable on cold winter days, and cooking became progressively less of an all-day chore. Almost every human pursuit was industrialized; the tempo of business, of life, became ever faster. And as a consequence people were continually more material in their outlook.

The improvement in comfort of living was due to the increasing use of machinery in making things, in making things more easily, more cheaply, in greater quantity. And as a by-product of this change craftsmanship declined, workmen took less and less pride in the quality of their product, were more interested in higher pay and shorter hours. In no part of the Victorian period is there exquisite woodcarving detail or beautiful masonry such as was rather common in buildings of Colonial times.

Architecture is an expression of the life and times which produce it. These changes in creature comforts, in ways of working, in the moral orientation of people, are reflected in the houses, the churches, the stores, they build. Victorian architecture in general is coarser in detail than what had been built before; it has less of that simplicity which is a quality of good architecture. It nevertheless has an interest of its own, for it was built by people who led interesting, rather comfortable lives, with widening interests and an increasing knowledge of old world culture. And, as in every age, some of the buildings were better designed than the average, some had the best of the craftsmanship then available.

It must be remembered that, due to the inclusion



Poe mystery-tale type of Victorian house
Greene Street at Tulpehocken

of these new creature comforts, the problems of designing well were much more difficult than in Georgian times, and became more so in each decade as mechanical inventions increased. A Colonial house was a simple problem technically, the only complication being the building of fireplace throats and chimneys. But the introduction of cellar furnaces, of heating flues or steam risers, of plumbing pipes and drains, of concealed gas piping and electric wiring, occupied a great deal of the architect's time. Naturally less could be given to the design of doors and window sash and trim, wood panelling and the laying out of graceful stairs.

So much time had to be spent in arranging these now demanded mechanical appliances, and in getting estimates of cost of these things, the designers looked for assistance in the matter of arranging the architectural elements of the houses entrusted to their care. They found it in the many books of architectural designs published for that purpose. One of them will give an indication of what was provided. Published in Philadelphia (in 1873) it is called "Suburban and Rural Architecture." It was the work of Isaac H. Hobbs and Son, architects, whose offices were on Chestnut Street just above Eighth. It is full of designs of houses—the woodcuts are rather clumsy—with accompanying short explanatory descriptions. These had appeared serially in Godey's *Ladies Book*. As the authors say in the preface, "a noticeable feature is that the greater portion of these designs has been executed, and given entire satisfaction." Many of them were "executed" in Germantown—and some of them are, presumably, still giving satisfaction, as they are still fulfilling the purpose intended.

The designs were quite various, for architects let their fancy roam, "and what they thought they might require, they had to do" as Kipling later re-



The Pardee House, Walnut Lane
Germantown's finest example of Queen Anne architecture

marked about poets. The titles are fanciful and sometimes mystifying. One is called an Anglo-French Villa—a mansard roof made it French, and the long porch was the Angelican touch. Another is a Romanesque Villa, with a cupola and a spire; and there is an Italian Villa, with smaller porches, the mansard roof less high. And there were an Ornamental Cottage, a Riverside Residence, and an "American Bracketed Villa," which called for a great amount of scroll-saw work by the carpenter. But each of the plans proudly displays a bathroom, and frequently there is a scullery, as well as a kitchen.

The Victorian people who lived in Germantown were, mostly, comfortable, they were apt to be sentimental, and more dignified than we are. The pictures on their walls were sweet and story-telling. They enjoyed cricket, or croquet, and, on winter evenings, whist. The houses they lived in were not archeology, in spite of all their fantastic (often pleasant) recalls of the past; nor were they yet "machines for living," though they were making use of more and more machines in their lives. The Great Centennial International Exhibition showed a tremendous number of inventions, a large proportion of them American.

Philadelphia was known as the City of Homes, and Germantown as the most homelike part of the city. In these homes lived able lawyers, preachers, doctors, literary men, and some architects of note—and many business men, for business was becoming a respected profession, successful business a most respected one.

At the earlier part of the century there had been a cult for the classic, and a cult for the romantic. Both of these movements lasted over into Victorian times, in fact are still strong forces today. The classic and the romantic flourished side by side, sometimes

in the same piece of architecture. The classic movement was called the "Classic Revival"—though there was in no sense a recreation of the antique, as the proposed rebuilding of Market Square would be an attempted recreation—but a happy playful use here and there of a motive or an ornament, or an arrangement of mouldings, and of course columns. The romantic movement was due to literature, to the writings of Beckford, Walpole and Sir Walter Scott, and because of their pre-occupation with medieval themes, resulted in a use of Gothic motives in churches, in houses, in schools, and even in commercial buildings.

One of the most pleasant of the Gothic houses remaining is at the corner (southwest) of Walnut Lane and Greene Street. There is a sturdy tower, a recessed doorway, very decorative cut-out bargeboards, and gabled dormers. The windows have small glass panes. It is picturesque at all times, quite delightful at night when lamplights shine through the casement windows. The effect is eminently domestic, an effect enhanced by vines, hedges, shrubs and trees. All during the Victorian time all Germantown houses had enough space for some planting, for a few trees. In my lexicon a slum is a part of the city where there are no longer trees. For the most part the houses were not large, though individual rooms would be considered big today, and the ceilings were high—ten to thirteen feet.

There is another "Gothic" house just one square north—at the corner of Tulpehocken and Greene Street. It too seems inspired by literature, in this case by Edgar Allen Poe, especially by his mystery tales. The stone-work is "cyclopean," of polygonal shapes; frequently the pieces seem to be standing on their points. (The modern French architect, Le-Corbusier, uses this neolithic stone work, notably in the Swiss Pavilion at the Cite' Universitaire, in Paris.) The color is gray; the stone joints thin, the effect cold and forbidding. Some of the windows are of queer, complicated, geometrical shapes, the dormers particularly novel—and unhappy. It is one of the least homelike of Victorian houses.

A decade or so later, perhaps as a result of popular interest in the great poetry of Byron, there was an Italianate period. Italian motives were used—mixed with others, for the architects often hunted for ideas wherever imagination led them, and gaily combined their motives. Stucco was a typical Italian expression, and inexpensive; usually bright in color, reflecting the sunlight, it was cheerful. These houses were thought of as "villas." The prevailing type can be found everywhere in old Germantown today. The forms are simple boxes, with well proportioned windows well arranged, with a "lantern" on top; and piazzas, originally roofed with tin painted in bright stripes of yellow and green, supported by flamboyant iron trellis work or arches of scroll-sawed wood completed the picture. There is a pleasing 1850 example on Main Street just below Mt. Pleasant.

Mansard roofs became the fashion just after the

Civil War as a result of the brilliance of the court of Napoleon III, and were used above all sorts of architecture. They made top stories much more livable than gable roofs with dormers. There are many remaining in Germantown. The Adamson house on the east side of Main Street above Wayne Junction, now a religious institution, is a good example of the Civil War type.

Still later were the castellated structures built by the more wealthy, of rugged gneiss or Chestnut Hill stone, with towers both square and round, the former machicolated, the latter capped with turrets. And yet with all these recalls of fortifications, the windows were usually in large panes of glass, this being a new product now available. The Harrison house—now Beaver College—on Easton Road, is a good example.

The last three decades of Victoria's reign are better symbolized by the then—Prince of Wales. There was less of high seriousness—and more of solid comfort, good eating, and frivolity. Our native architecture of this time, called without reason "Queen Anne" in style, was quite fanciful, quite ornate with flourishes, and apt to be picturesque. There was a conscious striving after the unusual and the informal. Houses were built with steep roofs with large ornamental chimneys, oriel windows, the porches with scrolled decorations and grilles. As in all periods, some were better in design than the average—one of the best was the Pardee house on the north side of Walnut Lane west of Greene Street, with red tiled roofs. Another quite homelike one stands on the south side of Tulpehocken Street, west of Greene. Here the roof is of shingles, and all the trim of the projecting bay windows is of wood.

A commercial building in this style is that of an insurance company at the north end of Market Square, a comparatively small building of beautiful pink brick and showing an artful disposition of window



Columns and mansard roof, Gowen House
8140 Germantown Avenue, below Mt. Pleasant

spaces, scrolls, and fanciful iron grilles.

The fashions changed, decade by decade, during the years of the good Queen's long reign. The Victorian was the Golden Age of Germantown. Since the turn of the century it has been corrupted by the influx of trade, by replacing comfortable houses set in large grounds and used by single families by apartments built to the pavement line housing hundreds. And it has been further spoiled by the ubiquitous automobile parked end to end all along its not-too-wide streets—a useful implement it is true, but not, in such quantity, fostering the domestic atmosphere of comfortable home living that had been characteristic of Germantown.



The Early Physicians of Germantown

I. PEARSON WILLITS, M.D.

*[[A portion of a paper read by Dr. Willits and
published by the Site and Relic Society in 1909]]*

DURING the second half of the 18th century, the medical history of Germantown might be said to have been almost limited to that of a single family—Bensell. For many years the doctors Bensell—father and sons—did practically all the work in the town. Other physicians were here but they seem to have been less active and less popular. Hans George Benzeli^{us} although of a Swedish origin, his father having been Bishop of Upsal, emigrated from Germany and came to Germantown at an early date. The deeds call him a weaver. In 1727 he bought about two and one-half acres of the Griffith Jones property at the northwest corner of Main Street and School Lane—then called King Street. Here he built and kept a general store. At his death in 1763, he left 30 pounds to the Pennsylvania Hospital.

His son Charles, who was the first of the name—then contracted to Bensell—to become a physician, was born in Germantown April 11, 1725. About 1750 he married Sarah, daughter of Paul Engle, one of the most prominent men at that time in the village. Soon after his son's marriage (and before 1755) the elder Bensell purchased the Main Street end of the Van Bebber and Telner lot on the south side of School Lane. It is not improbable that Charles and his wife took up their residence in the Telner house, continuing there until just before the Revolution, when they built the three-story stone house on the upper side of the father's original lot—lately numbered 5504 Main Street, but absorbed by the National Bank several years ago. In this house Dr. Charles Bensell died March 17, 1795, having nearly completed his seventieth year. He was buried in the Hood cemetery. He had always taken an active part in all movements for the welfare and progress of the town. Surviving were his widow and four children—Charles, who was a physician; Sarah, who married Samuel Billing; George, who also became a physician, and Engle.

Charles Bensell, the younger, was born August 15, 1752, and studied medicine under his father, whom he survived only about sixteen months, dying July 15, 1796. His body lies with his family in the Hood cemetery. He left no children, so that his share of his father's estate went to his brothers and sister. His mother, with whom he lived in the old house on the

corner, died in 1800, and his brother Engle, long an invalid, died in 1805, leaving George the heir to all the father's property except the house at 5504, which went to the sister by the father's will.

George Bensell, the best known of the family, was born in Germantown in 1757. Tradition has it that he was first engaged in mercantile life, and that he did not study medicine until after the death of his brother Charles. He married Mary Robeson, a sister of Peter Robeson of the Wissahickon Mills. She survived her husband twenty-nine years, dying at the age of 96 (1856). After his father's death Dr. George tore down the old Telner house on the south side of King Street—then called Bensell's Lane, its former title having been discarded with the allegiance to him it had honored—and built a large stone house, which stood until replaced by the Saving Fund Society's building. Dr. Bensell was noted for his genial manner and kindly disposition, and though somewhat timid and emotional, was a highly successful practitioner.

Dr. George Bensell was a man of affairs—busy, earnest, and reliable. As his father, he was interested in the welfare of the Academy, serving on its Board of Trustees for thirty years—from 1797 until his death—and was its secretary in 1811. All his sons were educated there. When the Germantown Bank was started in 1814 he was one of the subscribers to its stock, and was on its first Board of Directors, where he remained as long as he lived. The Bank opened for business in the house built by his father—number 5504—which he rented to them for \$300.00 per year, taking a lease for six years and six months.

He died in December 1827, in his 71st year. He had four sons—Charles E., James H., Edmund S., and George A.—but of these only James studied medicine, practicing for a short time at his father's house, but removing about 1826 to Mount Carbon. After Dr. Bensell's death the School Lane property passed entirely away from the possession of the family.

Christopher Warmer, the son of Christian Warmer, the younger, was born in November 1743, and became a physician. In his youth he probably had the encouragement of the aged Dr. Witt, who might have been the director of his studies. His medical life was

not long, as he died while still under forty (Feb. 17, 1783). His son, Dr. Jonathan Warmer, born in November 1771, had for preceptor Dr. Charles Bensell, Jr., but only lived to enter his twenty-third year (died Dec. 24, 1793). Both father and son were buried in the Warmer cemetery at St. Michael's Church.

Dr. George Lehman, the son of the surveyor, Christian Lehman, and one of the nine children for whom their father had cast nativities, "but not for hire," was born August 2, 1753, and soon after graduating in medicine entered the Revolutionary Army as a surgeon, serving throughout the war. He later practiced in Germantown. His son, Dr. George F. Lehman, took his medical degree in 1813, and fell heir to his father's work.

Dr. Samuel Betton, the elder, was of Shropshire, in England, but having inherited an estate in Jamaica, he removed there at about the time of the breaking out of our war for Independence. After peace was declared he came to Philadelphia and finally to Germantown, buying the property at the present corner of Price and Main Streets, formerly Parker's, now Goodwin's hardware store. For more than thirty-five years this was his home. About 1820 he sold it to Valentine Wunder, and returned to his plantation in Jamaica, where he died.

His son, Dr. Samuel Betton, Jr., was born in the Price Street house in 1785. In 1808 he graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and for six months served as interne, or "apprentice" as it was then still called, in the Pennsylvania Hospital. He then began practice in Germantown. The same year he married Mary Forrest, the daughter of Col. Thomas Forrest of Pomona. He opened an office in a house owned by Col. Forrest on Manheim Street west of Greene—the White Cottage—which has remained in the Betton family until quite recently. Dr. Betton possessed great professional skill, and held a very prominent place in Germantown's social life during the first half of the nineteenth century. He was noted for his generous hospitality. He was kind to his patients, gentle in speech and manner, and in every way a gentleman. Both he and his father were Trustees of the Academy on School Lane. In appearance he was tall and thin. He died in his Manheim Street house in June, 1850, aged 65 years, and was buried in St. Luke's churchyard (June 12, 1850). He was the father of Dr. Thomas Forrest Betton (born July 29, 1809), who for many years was the surgeon of Germantown.

Contemporary with Drs. Bensell and Betton was Dr. William Runkle, the son of the Rev. John William Runkle, once (1802–05) pastor of the Market Square Church. When Dr. Runkle started on his career as a physician he is said to have lived with his father in the house on the Main Street above Coulter (No. 5411), torn down, not long ago, when the rectory was built for St. Luke's Church. It was a three-story house, and at the time of which we are speaking there were but two others of like height in the town. After

Dr. Bensell's death his house, at the corner of School Lane, was occupied by Dr. Runkle, who was there during the cholera epidemic in 1832. Later he removed to the Nutz house below Coulter Street, now the home of Nathan Marple, and there he died December, 1834. He was buried in St. Luke's churchyard (Dec. 18, 1843). His wife was one of the victims of the cholera two years before.

In 1810 Dr. Runkle, like so many of the Germantown physicians, was made a trustee of the Academy. Four years later (March, 1814), he served the Directors of the new Bank as their agent in having their bank-bill acted upon by the Legislature. In the war of 1812 he was made captain of the "Germantown Blues" which was called to the front and left Germantown September 25th, 1814. Dr. Runkle was a very large man, tall and stout.

Two sons survived him—both physicians. One, Dr. William Runkle, Jr., lived for a short time in the School Lane House and then moved to Roxborough. He married Catherine Wise (Jan. 13, 1828). The other—Dr. Theodore—practised at the Falls.

Dr. Joseph Bullock, the son of Joseph Bullock, who lived in the house at the northwest corner of Main and Queen Lane, built by Christopher Sauer, and now the parsonage of the Lutheran Church—was born in 1786, studied under Dr. Physick, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania. He made but slight effort to practise his profession however. Soon after leaving college he went as supercargo to Calcutta; on his return he resided for a time in South Carolina; and although he lived into his 78th year, his medical work in Germantown amounted to very little.

The third decade of the nineteenth century saw several physicians start forth upon their careers, only two of whom were spared to become prominent.

Dr. Andrew E. Hanckell married Sarah, daughter of James S. Duval of Pomona, and commenced practice in the house which stood on the Main Street opposite West Duval, next above the Rodney house, and was torn down when East Duval Street was opened nearly twenty years ago. His life was destined to be a short one. In 1820 he was elected one of the trustees of the Academy, and only two years later (Nov. 18, 1822) the Board was called upon to adopt resolutions upon his death. In them they could say of him that his "classical and scientific attainments, urbanity of manners, and amiable disposition, rendered him esteemed and respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance." His widow became the wife of the Rev. John Rodney, a former revered pastor of St. Luke's Church (Dec. 1, 1828).

Dr. Joseph Rittenhouse was another who entered upon a medical life full of promise, but died while still young on December 26, 1832, from tuberculosis.

Dr. Joseph Lentz, graduated in 1826 and practised for a short time in Germantown, but soon moved to the city.

Dr. Theodore Ashmead, the great-great-grandson of John Ashmead, who came to Cheltenham Township in 1682, was born in 1799 in the house on the Main Street opposite Church Lane, occupied some ten or twelve years ago by Dr. Frank B. Gummey. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1822, his general education having been attained at the Germantown Academy. After his marriage he removed to the northeast corner of Main and Ashmead Streets—now the second house from the corner—and remained there until his death thirty years later. He is described as being of good height, of medium weight, and of a light complexion.

The Germantown Almshouse was then situated on the north side of Rittenhouse Street, a short distance east of what is now McCallum Street. The position of "House Physician" was filled by the Board of Managers by asking for bids—the appointment for the year going to the lowest bidder. In 1825 we find Dr. Ashmead competing with Dr. Runkle for the prize, and capturing it from the older man on his bid of \$28.00 for the year. The average population of the institution was about twenty, there were many outside calls to be made, and in addition he was to furnish his own medicines. The next year (May 25, 1826) his price had dropped to \$24.00 for the same service, and was continued at that figure through the succeeding year. But in 1828 came a change. Dr. Runkle seemed determined to underbid his opponent and actually obtained the office—his bid being \$18.00 for inside and outside patients and medicines! He was allowed to keep it but one term, however. The next three years—1829-30-31—Dr. Ashmead held it, the books do not say at what price.

In 1832 Dr. Runkle was the successful bidder, but alas! this was the cholera year and trouble was brewing. As the summer wore on, and it became apparent that the dread disease would reach even secluded Germantown, the managers, at a meeting held August 7th, appointed a committee to erect a two-story frame building on the Poorhouse lot, to measure sixteen by thirty-two feet, and to be used exclusively for cholera patients. Then Dr. Runkle promptly protested that his Almshouse bid did not include cases of cholera, and refused to attend such patients; but as the number proved to be small, he finally withdrew his objection. By the 1st of October the epidemic was about over, but a sequel to it again brought forth a protest from Dr. Runkle. Charles Bonsall presented to him a bill for cholera medicines amounting to \$11.29, but it was after Christmas before the doctor would consent to pay it. His net salary for 1832 must have been quite unpretentious.

Dr. William N. Johnson, who with Dr. Smith, is mentioned above as having charge of the upper ward, had graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1829, had spent nearly two years in Paris, and had now been in practice about one year. He resided at

the Johnson homestead, opposite the Chew house. He was later to become very eminent among the physicians of Germantown.

This list of Germantown's early physicians should not be closed without mention of Dr. John D. Godman, a man of national reputation. Born in poverty at Annapolis, Md., he obtained his education under the greatest difficulties, yet took his doctor's degree at the University of Maryland in 1818. After holding a chair in the Medical College at Cincinnati, he came to Philadelphia in 1822. He had already taken up medical journalism, and in a few years became one of the editors of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, which is still in existence. In 1826 he was Professor of Anatomy at Rutgers College, but his health began to fail, and he removed to Germantown in the hope of improving his condition, residing on the Main Street opposite Pastorius Street—now the home of Mrs. Enoch Taylor. He died April 17, 1830, from consumption, at the age of 36, while on a visit to the city. Short as his life was, he had already reached fame as a writer on medical subjects and on natural history—his *American Natural History* being an important work, and his *Rambles of a Naturalist* an entertaining one.

During the period covered by this paper important changes in the methods of medical education and journalism were brought about. Dr. Witt knew no American Medical college, no medical book by an American author, no *American Medical Journal*. The year of his death saw the establishment of a medical department in the University of Pennsylvania—the first medical college in the United States. From that time the history of medical education was entirely revised. Before, each student, if he could not study abroad, received his training directly from his preceptor, and his experience was gained by visits made with his preceptor to the patients. Gradually came the advantages of clinics and lectures in this country, so that when the nineteenth century opened, the public could demand a college degree for every young practitioner. A certificate like Dr. Witt's "so far as he follows my instructions" was no longer regarded as a satisfactory diploma.



JOHN KELPIUS, *the Hermit*

Written by Christian Lehman, July 28, 1766. Recopied January 1, 1824 by his grandson, Joseph Lehman, for his father, Benjamin Lehman.

JOHN KELPIUS, the hermit, of whom there is a Portrait affixed, was a German of Liebenburgen or Transylvania, of an Eminent Family, and a Student of Doctor John Fabrituis (Fabricis) at Helmstadt (The same John A. Falvicii I presume who is celebrated in Greek Literature for his Edition of Bibliotheca Graeca at Hamburg in 1706). He was also a correspondent of Maechen, Chaplain to the prince of Denmark, in London. Tradition says he was Noble.

He came to this Country in 1694, with John Seelig, Bernard Kuster (Coster), Daniel Falkner and about 42 others being generally men of Education & desiring to devote themselves for Piety sake, to a Solitary or Single Life; and receiving the appellation of the "Society of the Woman in the Wilderness." They first arrived among the Germans at Germantown, where they shone a while as a peculiar Light: but they settled chiefly on the Ridge then a Wilderness.

In 1708, Kelpius who was regarded as their Leader, died; after that time the Members began to fall in with the World around them, & some of them to break their avowed religious intentions by marrying. Thus the Society lost its distinctive character & died away. But previously to their dispersion they were joined about the year 1704 by some others, of whom were Conrad Mathias (The last of the Ridge Hermits) a Switeer & Christopher Witt (sometimes called Dr. DeWitt of Germantown) a Professor of Medicine, and a *Magus* or Diviner.

After the death of Kelpius, who died in the midst of his days (said to be at 35) the faith was continued in the Person of John Seelig, who had been his Companion and also a Scholar. Seelig lived many years after him as a Hermit & was remarkable for resisting the offers of the World & for wearing a remarkable and coarse Garment like the one of Kelpius. This Seelig records the death of his friend Kelpius in 1708 in a M.S. hymn Book of Kelpius (set to Music) which I have seen, saying he died in his Garden, and attended by all his children (Spiritual ones & children whom he taught gratis) weeping as for the Loss of a Father:

Conrad Mathias who survived them all, as the last of the Hermits lived to about the year 1745 & was



John Kelpius

buried at the Ridge, beside the Bodies of the others, by his Kind Friend John Wister, Esq. a rich Merchant of Philadelphia. Several of the proceeding facts are verified in the "Chromason Ephrateus" Published at Ephrata in 1786. That Kelpius was a man of Learning is tested by some of his writings. Which I have seen—A very small written book of 100 pages, which Seelig or Mathias gave to John Wister, Esq. It contains his writings in Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German & English; and this last (which is very remarkable) is very free & pure, which is certainly a Wonder for a Foreigner. The Journal of his voyage to this Country in 16 pages is all in Latin. Some of his Letters (of which there are several in German & two in English) are in Latin. They are all on religious topics, & saving his religious opinions, reasons very accurately & Soberly. From venturing with the thousands of his day to give spiritual interpretations to Scripture, he fell upon a Religion which drove him & other Students from the Universities of Germany, under the name of Pietists &c. He & his Friends therefore expected the Millenium year was due at hand—so near, that he told the first Alexander Meck (the first of the German Dunks of Germantown) that he should not die till he saw it.

He believed also, that "the woman in the Wilderness" mentioned in the Revelation was prefigurative of the great deliverance that was then soon to be displayed, for the church of Christ. In using his Scriptures to elucidate this point he shows deep thinking & much ingenuity. As she was to com: up

(Continued on page 28)

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

CORNELIUS WEYGANDT, Ph.D., Litt.D., L.L.D., is a native son of whom Germantown is justly proud. In the '70's and '80's of his boyhood there still was here the life of the small town and the countryside was much closer. His mother came from the Chester County farmland and in those years were developed and fostered the love and knowledge of nature and of birds which has been vitally present in all his thinking and writing.

Dr. Weygandt graduated from the Germantown Academy and the University of Pennsylvania, after which he had some years of newspaper work on the *Record* and *Evening Telegraph*. In 1897 he joined the faculty of the University becoming Professor of English and since 1942, Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Weygandt's classes have been a vital and vivifying experience to the many young people who have had the privilege of working under him. He it is who brought to American students the beauty of the modern school of Irish drama.

Through the years has come a succession of books from his pen. As someone has said, he has found the material for his writing "half of it in the study, half of it on the road in back country places."

Among his works are: *Irish Plays and Playwrights*, *A Century of the English Novel*, *Tuesdays at Ten*, *Wissahickon Hills*, *New Hampshire Neighbors*, *The Red Hills*, and *Philadelphia Folks*.

JOHN F. HARBESON is the senior partner in the firm of Harbeson, Hough, Livingston, and Larson, architects. As successors to Paul Cret, architects, they are following the traditions established by that talented pioneer who designed the war memorials for our soldiers fallen on the battlefields of Europe in the First World War. John Harbeson is now the one to take his place in that important work and has been chosen by the United States Government as consulting architect in the American Battle Monuments Commission. This requires extensive travel abroad, and he has recently returned from one of these trips. An additional special interest is the Budd Company's streamline train, for which he developed the observation roof.

He was for a long time instructor in the Fine Arts Department of the University of Pennsylvania and still keeps on with classes on perspective at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. His principal hobby is collecting chessmen, which he has carried to a science, and on which he is an authority. His



private collection of sets of chessmen is the third largest in the world. He has another hobby, croquet, at which he is a most skilful player. His son, Paul Cret Harbeson, is also an architect and is working for his father.

DR. I. PEARSON WILLITS, a former president of the Germantown Historical Society and long an active member of the board, graduated from the Medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1880. He practiced his profession in Germantown for over forty-five years, living first at Germantown Avenue and Pastorius Street, then moving to 31 West Walnut Lane where he died. He was neurologist at the Germantown Hospital.

His ancestors came early to Philadelphia, settling in Lower Dublin Township, near the upper end of Holmesburg. The three brothers built three large houses which are still standing, two of them are on the Ashton Road, and one is on the Willits Road, which received its name from this family. Nearby was the Lower Dublin Academy founded by Thomas Holm, Penn's surveyor. Dr. Willits attended this school as a small boy. A large clock placed in the front of the gable roof was the pride of all Holmesburg. It had been made by Edward Duffield, a friend of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

KATHERINE RICHARDSON WIREMAN is a native Philadelphian and a birthright member of the Society of Friends. She is a direct descendant of Joseph Richardson, the famous colonial silversmith, from whom doubtless came the artistic bent which runs through the family.

Upon graduating from George School, she joined the group of talented young people who studied illustration at Drexel under the inspiring instruction of Howard Pyle. Edward Bok offered her a position in the Curtis Publishing Company, and she worked

with distinction on their various publications for years. Her work also appeared in most of the leading periodicals. During the First World War six magazines featured her timely covers. Mrs. Wireman has three daughters, all artists. Virginia, Mrs. James Cute, a talented silversmith, is head of the silversmithing department of the Philadelphia Museum School of Art.

A member of the board of directors of the Germantown Historical Society, Mrs. Wireman is an active worker on many of its projects. She is a member of the Philadelphia Historical Society and of the Art Alliance, and acts on several important committees of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends. Unselfish of time and strength, she is, in short, one of those busy, gifted people who has time always for one thing more!

CAROLYN PITTS has spent five years at Moore Institute of Art in the Art Education course where she was president of the Student Government and national president of the Art Student division in the Eastern Arts Association. After teaching for a year at Culver-Stockton College in Missouri, she returned to the University of Pennsylvania for a master's degree in Fine Arts. At present she is acting head of the Art Education Department at Moore Institute and retains an assistantship in the Fine Arts Department at the University of Pennsylvania. Her article in this issue was a section of the work done on a master's degree at Penn.

THOMAS RODNEY, brother of Caesar Rodney signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born June 4, 1744 in St. John's Neck, Kent County, Delaware. In his youth he evinced great interest in mathematics and history. When eighteen years of age he moved to his brother's farms and assisted in their management until his marriage on April 8, 1771, to Elizabeth Fisher, of Philadelphia. He entered business in Philadelphia and later engaged in a partnership in Wilmington. He served as a justice of the peace for Kent County in 1774, and was elected to the Colonial Assembly in 1775, participating in the deliberations of that body in establishing the independent state of Delaware. He served in the militia at various times during 1776 and 1777, engaging in the Trenton and Princeton campaign, and later assisted in resisting the British march on Philadelphia in September, 1777.

His service as a legislator was varied and included judge of the Admiralty Court (1778-1785), member of Continental Congress at various times between 1781 and 1788, and elected member of the Delaware House of Assembly in 1786, being chosen speaker of that body in October 1787. In 1802 he was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware, serving until the summer of 1803. At that time he resigned to accept appointment as United States judge for Mississippi Territory—a position he held until his death, January 2, 1811.

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LEIGHTON P. STRADLEY, president of the Germantown Historical Society for the past two years, was formerly assistant professor of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is the senior partner in the law firm of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens & Young, and president of the Philadelphia Country Club.

**PROGRAM FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS
HELD AT VERNON**

- Dec. 15—ARTHUR M. KENNEDY, — "Some Further Adventures of Captain John Smith."
Jan. 19—HORACE MATHER LIPPINCOTT, a review of his recently published book—"Chestnut Hill, Springfield, Whitmarsh and Cheltenham."
Feb. 16—ERNEST HOWARD YARDLEY—"Congress Hall"
Mar. 16—JOHN W. JACKSON—"Propaganda in Pennsylvania During the Revolution."
April 20—HARROLD E. GILLINGHAM—Subject to be announced.
May 18—JOSEPH HAINES PRICE—Subject to be announced.
June 16—Garden Party, an illustrated lecture—"Colonial Day in Williamsburg" at the Museum, 5214 Germantown Avenue.

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Germantown's Christmas Flower of 1880

CORNELIUS WEYGANT

HOLLY is, of course, the very symbol of Christmas. Its bright berries were cherished overseas in the England from which we inherit most of our institutions. Our forefathers settling along the Atlantic seaboard from southern Maine to Florida were delighted to find a very similar holly growing wild everywhere within hail of the ocean. Once it was to be found in abundance, but it has been ruthlessly ravaged for Christmas greens and, save where it has been protected, as in places on the sea islands off the Jersey coast, it is now far to seek, as is the mistletoe, the white berries of which have been traditionally blended with the scarlet berries of the holly all down the years.

As a flower the poinsettia, with its holly red is now commonest. At Christmas ardisia, with hollylike berries, had its day as a houseplant brought to prime for Christmas display. It was *Daphne odora*, though, or *daphne indica*, as it was sometimes called, that was the flower of flowers for Christmas when I was a boy. I remember it first when I lived at 124 West Tulpehocken Street. As I recall it there were one to three plants of it always about. It was brought into bud in the greenhouse and on its first showing of pinky white bloom it was carried into the house where it was soon in full flower and full fragrance. It did not retain its bloom so long in the furnace heated houses of yesterday as it had in the open fireplace heated houses of day before yesterday. Its delightful fragrance cannot be described. Think of the scent of arbutus, which it so much resembles in its pink and white, add a little spiciness to that arbutus scent, and you have somewhat the fragrance of *Daphne odora*.

It belongs with the flowers of the cool greenhouse of Victorian times, this treasured shrub-like evergreen from China. I saw the largest plants of it, plants eight feet high, in the greenhouses of Fred Byxby, on Toilsome Hill out from Norwalk in Connecticut. There I found *Daphne odora* again after I had allowed my mother's plants of it to succumb to red spider. Fred Byxby had ten thousand plants of it all descended from one plant his grandmother had owned. Before all his plants were frozen to death in the winter of 1917-18, when he could secure no fuel to keep his greenhouses above freezing, I used to send around sprays of his *Daphnes* eight inches long as Christmas cards. The sprays looked like arbutus flowers growing out of the clefts in branching laurel.

All is gone on the wind now, *Daphne odora*, the sweetest of Christmas flowers, along with its fellows of the cool greenhouse camellias, star jessamines, pittosporums. Along with, too, fruitcake soaked in

rum, plum pudding carried in to the table for dessert with brandy burning about it, mince pie flavored with hard cider, sherried meringues, turkey stuffed with chestnuts, cranberries moulded in a punkin-ware mould, candied sweet potatoes, coleslaw, cauliflower from the cold frames by the greenhouse, and celery, stringless and tender. Where, too, are green gage jam, pumpkin pie, Moravian mints, all the seven sweets and seven sours of warm hearted Dutchland, that Dutchland to which Germantown in its beginnings was the gateway.

ROXBOROUGH PLANTATION

(Continued from page 10)

son furnace, one of the first built-in brick furnaces to be made. Apparently in a perfectly good condition, its bricks painted white and the iron door a shining black, as spick and span as its rival, the modern hot water heating system with its gigantic boiler, on the opposite side of the cellar.

We left with regret, for the main question we wanted answered was still a mystery. How much of the present house had been there before the Revolution? A few days later one of our members telephoned excitedly to say that solid oak joists, as strong as when first placed there, had been found under all the wide floor boards in the central part of the house, and charred oak rafters, pegged together, under the center of the main roof. Other rafters evidently used to replace the damaged ones were of a different kind of wood. As if these discoveries were not enough proof that the house had been standing at the time of the battle of Germantown and was for the most part Henry Hill's original house, Revolutionary bullets had been found embedded in the frame of a second story window. Hurrah, George Washington had slept there, after all!

Although "Carlton" has vanished she will live again in other houses, for most of the valuable woodwork was sold. Her front door, the oldest exterior door with its massive rim lock and key, is now installed as a side door at Upsala; an old shelf from one of the cellar fireplaces is over a fireplace in the old kitchen there; the gigantic boiler will help to furnish heat at Upsala, and the large wooden pump is set up in the yard. Other treasures which our architect was able to obtain are two of the oldest inside doors, the window from the stairway, the molded stone coping from the garden pond, and the two old cranes.

Besides this, architectural drawings have been made of the plans of the house showing details of woodwork, and photographs have been taken both inside and out. Some of these photographs are in the Germantown Historical Society museum. In the museum also are: a section of burnt rafter, a balustrade from the stairway, an early coat hook of wood and some of the hand-split lath, "'tis a pity, so strong," to which we were invited to help ourselves when we went to view the demolition of "Carlton," in February, 1948.

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Letter from Thomas Rodney, Esq., Oct. 1777—
 Great Valley 34 miles from Camp
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TO GENERAL RODNEY, DOVER:

I have seen a great number of gentlemen and officers from Camp since the action and have heard a pretty full account of the whole—Johnny Wilson is well—Col. Hall slightly wounded—Capt. Holland mortally wounded—Lieut. Cannon killed—one or two others of the officers wounded—not dangerous—Genl. Nash mortally wounded—no other general hurt except Conway and Wayne sd. to be wounded in the hand. Our Army moved down from the 20 Mile Stone in three Divisions on three Roads and attacked the British Camp and drove them from Chestnut Hill quite through German Town, and had not Genl. Sulivans Division which began the attack in the centre pushed on with too much rapidity, Howe would have got a total overthrow he having Regulated his retreats & given notice to the friends of Government as they call them to be ready to move but Sulivans Division pushed so far that the Right & Left could not get up in time to support him before the British forces began to Rally and out flank him whereupon he was obliged to Retreat and then the Genl. ordered the whole to retreat which they did in good order and carried of two pieces of the enemies cannon and a good deal of plunder—they had nine pieces of cannon in possession but could not carry more of for want of Horses. The whole of our killed and wounded does not exceed three hundred—The enemy had two Genls. killed & the third mortally wounded—and a great many inferior officers—The whole of their loss in killed from the best accounts is about 800, and several officers taken prisoner among whom is said to be Lt. Genl. Niphausan. We also have lost several officers whose names I have forgot—The action was very bloody and the British officers who are taken prisoners say we never fought so well before. As to the river it is all safe yet and there is no apprehension about us losing it. Our Army moved down near the enemy yesterday and a general attack is expected every day—Our Army as well as the people there are in the highest spirits and are determined to do Howe's business in a little time—The General having now thirty thousand men—You may depend upon it that Howe and his Army is in a deplorable situation and that it is out of their power now to get out of it. It is believed from the last accounts that Murgins is dead.

in haste
 THOMAS RODNEY

GERMANTOWN, THE NINTH NATIONAL CAPITOL

(Continued from page 8)

bays were land-locked by the law of nations, jurisdiction over these waters was retained under United States jurisdiction.

During the fall of 1793, Washington was concerned about the place of the coming meeting of Congress, because of the possibility that the epidemic might still be raging in Philadelphia in December. He apparently gave serious consideration to Germantown, although some of his Cabinet members were opposed to such a possibility because of the mistaken belief that the plague would become effective in Germantown and there was overcrowding in Germantown by Philadelphians seeking to avoid the epidemic and the proximity to the epidemic. It is to be noted in this connection that the trustees of Germantown Academy offered the Academy building for the use of Congress.

From November 12 to November 17 Washington was absent from Germantown on a tour throughout the state to consider other possible sites for the coming session of Congress. This whole problem was settled when the yellow fever epidemic abated before the time for the session arrived, so that Congress was able to meet in Philadelphia on the first Monday of December.

On the question of convening Congress at some location other than Philadelphia, there was considerable discussion by Attorney General Randolph, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Jefferson. The question of the constitutionality of such a meeting was considered. Randolph pointed out that the Act of Congress by which Philadelphia was named temporary capital did not require Congress to continue to meet in Philadelphia after its first meeting. In the absence of constitutional or legislative directions as to the place where Congress should meet, Randolph reasoned that the place of the meeting should be the place selected by Congress from time to time. At the conclusion of the congressional session prior to the December, 1793 meeting, Congress had adjourned without word as to the place of the next session.

During the consideration of this problem a question arose as to whether Washington himself could call a meeting of Congress at some other place. Under the Constitution the President has the power to convene Congress on "extraordinary occasions," but Randolph did not believe that the existence of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, which concerned really the place of Congress's meeting, constituted an "extraordinary occasion" which would justify Washington issuing a special call. Randolph felt that Congress could meet in Philadelphia on the designated day and immediately adjourn to a safer location, or if Congress failed to meet because of the epidemic, that failure to meet would constitute an extraordinary occasion which would warrant Washington's exercise of this special power.

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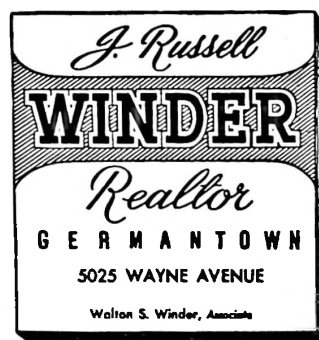
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In the reports of the Cabinet meetings lies the evidence that Germantown was the place where all the principal functions of the Federal Government were being performed towards the close of the year 1793. These historical records justify the claim that Germantown was the ninth site to serve as the capital of the United States. True, it was only a temporary arrangement, as it was for Philadelphia itself four times in that city's history and for the seven other temporary capitals—Baltimore, Lancaster, York, Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, and New York City.

JOHN KELPIUS, THE HERMIT

(Continued from page 19)

from the Wilderness leaning on her beloved, so the beloved in the Wilderness laying aside all other engagements & trimming their Lamps & adorning themselves with Holiness that they may be prepared to meet the same with "joy" therefore they did well to observe the signs & the times, and every new Phenomena (whether moral or Preternatural) of Meteors, Stars and colors of the skies, if peradventure the Harbinger may appear. He argued too that there was a Threefold Wilderness state of Progression in Spiritual Holiness to wit, "the barren, the fruitful & the wilderness state of the Elect of God." In this last state, after which he was seeking, as a highest degree of Holiness he believed it very essential to attain it by dwelling in solitude, or in the Wilderness therefore, he agrees Moses' holiness by being prepared 40 years in the Wilderness, Christ's being tempted 40 days in the Wilderness as an Epitome of the other. John the Baptist coming from the Wilderness & He thought it thus proved that Holy men might be thus qualified to come forth among men again to Convert whole Cities and to work signs & miracles.

He begins his Journal & shows the opinions of himself and companions, that they were moved of God, to come to this Land, in the following entry which begins his Sound, to wit. "Anno 1694 Septimo Janavii convictus a Dec. iter in American institui comitibus" Henvico Hevhards Costero, Daniel Costers Falknero, Daniels Luskis, Johanne Seelig "Ludovsis Aidermanno, et consistibus simuil 40 circiter quaruar recensiti, et. alic" convict a Deo in Germania precedents, adhere Anno eter. istud in stuevant.

He was much visited by Religious visitors, the first Rev. Alexander Meck celebrated in Germantown for his piety visited him in 1708—Kelpius professed love and charity with all, but desired to live without a name of Sect. The name they got was given by others. The Tradition respecting Seelig whom he called his beloved Brother is more perfect. Some aged persons now alive remember that the Friends thought much of him. So also the Dunkers.

The present Wm. Leibert aged 71 has two of Kelpius' M.S. Hymn Books, one of his own composing, in German, is called *Elegant*. they are curious too, because they are all translated into English poetry (line for line) by Dr. C. DeWitt the Diviner or Magus. The title of some of them may exhibit the mind of the author: To Wit

"of the Wilderness, or the Virgin—Crafs Love"

"The Contentment of the God loving Soul"

"of the power of the new Virgin-body, wherein the Lord revealeth his mysteries"

"A Loving Moan of the disconsolate Soul"

"Colloquium of the soul with itself"

"Upon *Rest*, after he had been wearied with *Labour* in the Wilderness"

Kelpius' Hut or house stood on the Hill where the Widow Phebe Riter now lives. Her log House has now stood more than 40 years on the cellar foundation which was his. It is on a steep descending grapy Hill, well exposed to the sun for warmth in Winter, & has a Spring of the Hermit's making half down the Hill, shaded by a very stout Cedar Tree.

After Kelpius' Hut went down, the foxes used to burrow in his cellar. He called the place the Burrow of Rocks—or Rocks burrow (now Roxborough).

Seelig, as well as Kelpius, taught children gratis to read & write & many of the old Deeds are written by Seelig. The chain & table in the picture of Kelpius, are still preserved by them who loved his character. Their holiness was doubtless very remarkable.



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(Continued from page 12)

"Many remember his very civil and courteous demeanor to all classes in the town, as he occasionally had intercourse with them. He had been seen several times at Henry Fraley's carpenter shop, and at Bringhurst's blacksmith shop, talking freely and cordially with both. They had both been in some of his campaigns. His lady endeared herself to many by her uniform gentleness and kindness. Neither of them showed pride or austerity. I could illustrate the assertion by several remembered incidents in proof."

Bound up in the Washington traditions in Germantown is the famous early American painter, Gilbert Stuart. Mr. Jenkins quotes Watson's *Annals* as stating that both the so-called "Marquis of Lansdowne" portrait of Washington and also the "Athenaeum" head were done in Germantown. The evidence to support these claims is rather thin but the stories that survive are interesting to note here.

Gilbert Stuart returned to America in 1792. He was so over-solicited for work that he removed from his Philadelphia studio at Fifth & Chestnut Streets to Germantown, probably in the early summer of 1796. "In Germantown, Stuart occupied the house numbered 5140 Main Street, then the property of Samuel Bringhurst. The second floor of a little two-story barn at the rear was fitted up and used as a studio. It was surmounted with a big weather-vane in the form of an Indian with extended bow and arrow. Stuart had the interior lathed and plastered and the outside painted red. Until it was destroyed by fire (1860's) the interior walls were daubed in many places with the artist's brush. After this fire the ruins were roofed over, and in this shape it was preserved until about 1903 when it was completely demolished."

"William Wynne Wister, whose heirs inherited the property, recorded this anecdote. When the General visited the studio for a sitting, he was in the habit of walking into the garden and eating fruit from an apple tree, which in Mr. Wister's time stood and bore fruit. Stuart was once asked which of the various representations of Washington was the best and declared that Houdon's bust came first, and that his own unfinished portrait (now in Boston's Athenaeum) was next. He answered one criticism, which apparently was frequently made of the constrained expression around the mouth, by explaining that it was due to the fact that he had just had a set of false teeth inserted. The President had lost his teeth in 1789 and had had a more or less unsatisfactory set. In order to remedy this defect in a measure, it is said Stuart inserted rolls of cotton between the President's teeth and cheeks while he was sitting. His daughter, Miss J. Stuart states that during the sittings given in Germantown, Stuart by this time having become better acquainted with the President, the artist gained his entire self-possession, was able by his conversation particularly as to horses, to arouse the

interest of the President, and thus secure the expression he desired."

Charles Francis Jenkins gives us an interesting picture of Germantown when the Marquis de Lafayette came back to America on his famous 14 month tour of 1824, during which time he was the "Nation's Guest." Earlier in 1784 he had been to the United States as a guest of General Washington.

On his second visit, Lafayette passed through Germantown in July, 1825, on his way home. His visit took up the better part of a day and Wednesday, July 20, became a holiday for the residents of the thriving town. Lafayette's party was met at Loudoun at the foot of Negleys Hill by the appointed hosts for the day. The group probably passed through the Toll Gate at Rittenhouse Street and Main Street, as all the toll roads and bridges were open to the "Nation's Guest and Great Patriot." (John Smith's house once stood here and an old photograph of the Gate can be seen in the Germantown Historical Society.)

The party had breakfast at Cliveden (the Chew House). The meal was originally to be taken at the Green Tree Inn, but the accommodations were not sufficient. Many well-known personages attended the repast and descriptions of the repast are found in some of the old letters that remain.

The group later moved up the Old Germantown Road to Mount Airy College which was adjoining Chief Justice William Allen's house in Mt. Airy (1750). Lafayette revisited Barren Hill just beyond Chestnut Hill where he had directed a Battle during the Revolution.

Later in the afternoon the party returned to Wyck for a reception of the prominent Germantown citizens. A small box was presented to the French general by John Fanning Watson. Watson had made two of these interesting little boxes and one may now be seen at the Germantown Historical Society. Inscribed on the underside was "Relics of the Olden Time—Gift of J. F. Watson, Member of the Society of Penn., to General Lafayette, when he was in Germantown, 20 July, 1825." The General received the people of the community in the passageway between the lower stories at Wyck seated in a chair that Benjamin Franklin had brought from France. The chair, now known as the "Lafayette Chair," is still in the possession of the Haines family.

The party also journeyed over to the Germantown Academy. The head master then was the famous Walter Johnson. An interesting historical fact is recorded here. Lafayette met many of the students and shook hands with a young South American student, Fernando Bolivar, the nephew and adopted son of Simon Bolivar, who was then at the height of his career.

At the end of the day, Lafayette returned to the city of Philadelphia, noting in his diary his visit to the small town so important in the earlier days of his career.

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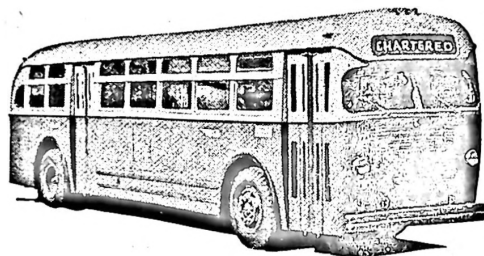
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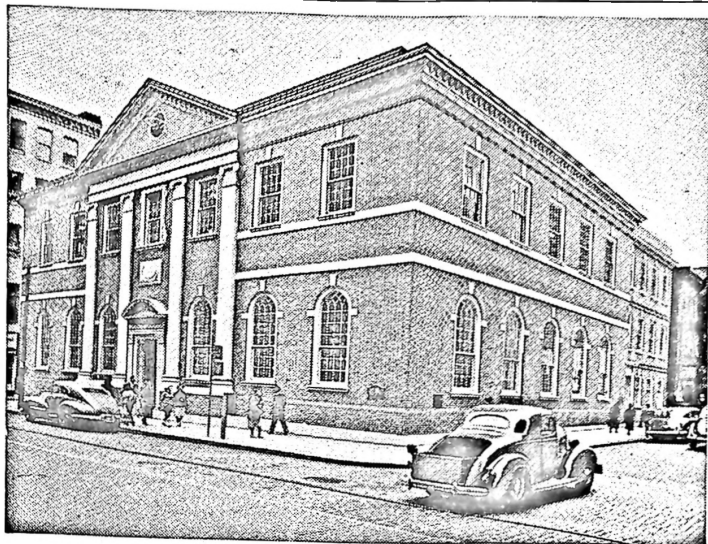
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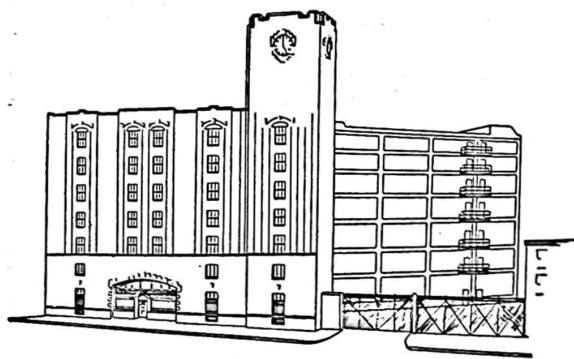
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