GERMANTOWNE CRIER



"PRO BONO PUBLICO"

Celebrated as the first drinking fountain in Philadelphia, along the Upper Wissahickon. Erected 1854 (joint gift of John Cook and Charles Magarge) the year the "little" communities became one with Philadelphia.

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 3 FIFTY CENTS SUMMER, 1975

The Trefoil is as much
a part of Philadelphia as the
Walnut Street Theater



Bank at the Trefoil...
It's a good sign.

THE FIDELITY BANK

Germantown Avenue and School House Lane
in the historic
James de la Plaine house

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

PHONE GE 8-9478

J. RUSSELL WINDER

Realtors

Active in Germantown for
Over 50 Years

WALTON S. WINDER

ROSE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

Wholesale Distributors

5038-42 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

Phone: VIctor 3-7446

PLUMBING ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES MILL SUPPLIES

Kane AND Brown HARDWARE

GE 8-8501-2

5003 WAYNE AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19144

GE 8-6801

THE PROVIDENT

Provident National Bank PHILADELPHIA AND SUBURBS

MEMBER FDIC

150 W. CHELTEN AVENUE

FULL SERVICE BANK

VI 4-5251

J. & R. SMITH, INC.

PLUMBING—HEATING

•••

5201 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

YOU PAY FOR NO LOST TIME

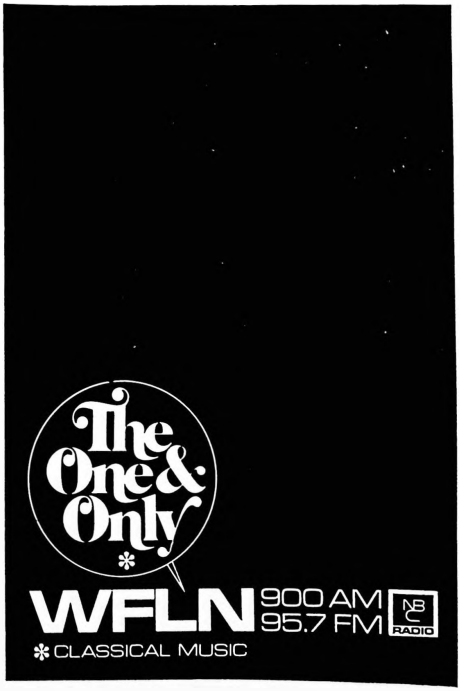
Dependable Electricians

Since 1919

SCHUCK

ELECTRIC

5944 Germantown Avenue



BOARDMAN-HAMILTON COMPANY

5434 GERMANTOWN AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA, PENNA. 19144

Phone: VI 8-9200

GENERAL INSURANCE

Specializing in

- ARCHITECT'S & ENGINEERS PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
- SURETY BONDS
- BUILDERS RISK
- CONTRACTORS LIABILITY
- PENSION PLANS
- GROUP LIFE & HOSPITALIZATION
- SALARY CONTINUATION INS.

Edmund K. Schauseil, President

John H. Hamilton, Jr., Vice President

THE MANOR
THE CAMBRIDGE
THE INN
THE KENILWORTH
THE STAFFORD

Alden Park

WISSAHICKON & CHELTEN AVES.
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19144
VICTOR 4-7900

ROBERT W. WISE
General Manager

Since 1867
The Ivy Hill Cemetery

Mt. Airy Avenue east of Stenton Avenue

CH 8-4533

Choice Lots Available
(All Lots Include Perpetual Care)

ST. MARTIN'S COAL CO., INC.

7600 Germantown Avenue

GULF
SOLAR HEAT
heating oil

GULF FUEL OIL

GULF E. J. OIL BURNERS

Phone: CH 7-0800 Day or Night

Germantown Historical Society

President
HON. HAROLD D. SAYLOR

Vice-Presidents
FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN, III — FRANK R. DONAHUE, JR. — FRANK J. OLLINGER

Secretary
MRS. REID MCNEILL

Board of Managers
MRS. F. EDWARD ATKINS, JR.
MRS. M. BACON BOSTWICK
MISS HELEN M. COMLY
FREDERICK C. FIECHTER, JR.
J. MALCOLM HENDERSON
JACK HORNUNG
HENRY W. JOHNSON
HENRY J. MAGAZINER
MRS. J. BRADFORD RITTER
ARTHUR O. ROSENLUND
RAYMOND V. SHEPHERD, JR.
MRS. LAWRENCE M. C. SMITH
JOHN STAPLES
GORDON W. VENABLE
MRS. RICHARD WILSON

Assistant Secretary
LEONARD DENIS

Historian
LEONARD DENIS

Solicitor
FRANK R. DONAHUE, JR.

Treasurer
WALLACE S. MARTINDALE, JR.

Librarian
MISS MABEL E. IRLE

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Annual Excursion
FRANK R. DONAHUE, JR.

Costume
MISS DEBORAH C. RITTER

Germantown Week Tour
DR. GORDON W. VENABLE
FRANK J. OLLINGER

Maxwell Mansion
MRS. F. JOSEPH STOKES, JR.

Hospitality
MRS. ROBERT AXFORD

House
FRANK J. OLLINGER

Library
FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN, III

Meetings
REED LAURENCE ENGLE

Membership
MRS. JAMES S. BISHOP

Publications
MISS HELEN M. COMLY

Deshler-Morris House
DR. GORDON W. VENABLE

Deshler-Morris House Hostesses
MRS. EDWARD T. HORN

Women's Committee of the Deshler-Morris House
MRS. RICHARD WILSON

Wyck
CHARLES HUSTON HAINES

Relics
MRS. M. BACON BOSTWICK

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
5214 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
OPEN EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY, 1 TO 5 P.M.
ADMISSION FREE
(CLOSED UNTIL MARCH 1ST)

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY
5208 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
OPEN EVERY TUESDAY, 1 TO 5 P.M.

HOWELL HOUSE
5218 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
OPEN EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY, 1 TO 5 P.M.
ADMISSION FREE

DESHLER-MORRIS HOUSE
(THE GERMANTOWN WHITE HOUSE)
5442 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
OPEN DAILY, EXCEPT MONDAY, 1 TO 4 P.M.
ADMISSION: 25 CENTS
(WILL BE CLOSED DURING EXTENSIVE RESTORATION WORK ON THE HOUSE — REOPENING DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED)

COSTUME MUSEUM
5275 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
OPEN EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY, 1 TO 5 P.M.
ADMISSION 25¢; CHILDREN ADMITTED FREE UNDER 10 YEARS OF AGE. MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULTS

MAXWELL MANSION
BEING RESTORED AS A VICTORIAN MUSEUM AT GREENE & TULPEHOCKEN STS.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

NEW MEMBERS

MR. & MRS. DONALD F. BYRNE
REVEREND JOHN F. CASEY
MRS. CHARLOTTE EDWARDS
MR. & MRS. GEORGE FELICE
MR. & MRS. ELLIS LESACK
MR. ARTHUR MECKLER
MR. MARK D. ROBIN
MRS. ELEANOR SALEEBY
MR. & MRS. MARSHALL THOMAS, JR.

Allen's

CHELTEN & GREENE
GERMANTOWN

"THE NICE PLACE TO SHOP SINCE 1837"

- WOMEN'S FASHIONS
- MEN'S STORE
- CHILDREN'S SHOP
- SPORTSWEAR
- COSMETICS
- BAKERY
- CANDY
- NOTIONS
- STATIONERY & BOOKS
- GIFTS
- HOUSEWARES
- LINENS

Your BANKAMERICARD welcome here

master charge THE INTERBANK CARD

SHOP 10 'TIL 9 WED. & FRI. OTHER DAYS 'TIL 5:30
FREE ATTENDED 2 HR. PARKING BEHIND THE STORE

FINE PIANOS SINCE 1891

Cunningham PIANO CO.

IN HISTORIC GERMANTOWN

PHILA. LARGEST SELECTION
NEW & USED PIANOS
AT FACTORY PRICES

Rentals • Storage • Tuning • Moving
We Buy Pianos • Organs
Free Appraisal • GE 8-3200
24 Hr. Service • Best Cash Prices
5427 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
WAREHOUSE & PLANT—26 E. COULTER ST.
PHILA'S OLDEST PIANO FACTORY

WE WELCOME YOUR ACCOUNT
FOR ANY AMOUNT
REGULAR SAVINGS EARN 5¼% per yr.

Annual Yield When Super Compounded . . .
5.47% per yr.
Savings Certificates Earn More
(depending on term)
Plus—Lovely Appreciation Gifts on
New Accounts

FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS,
OLD-FASHIONED SERVICE
IN A MODERN ATMOSPHERE

LIBERTY FEDERAL SAVINGS and Loan Association

128 W. CHELTEN AVE.

Hours: 9 AM to 4 PM Friday to 8 PM

202 N. Broad St. Stenton & Duval St.
1625 Wadsworth Ave. 7928 Bustleton Ave.
Peg Lane, Dresher, Pa. 19025

GEORGE ROBERTSON & SONS, INC.

FLORISTS

Over 39 Years in Chestnut Hill

8501 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

AD 3-1849 CH 2-6000

GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Volume 27 | SUMMER, 1975 | Number 3

CONTENTS

	Page
Germantown, The Ninth National Capital — *By Leighton P. Stradley*	73
Deshler-Morris House Orientation Training Session	75
How Many Can You Identify? — *Photos by Rob Stauffer*	76
Gardens and Gardeners of Germantown — *By Edwin C. Jellett*	77
The Birds of Germantown — *By Florence C. Griscom*	87
Membership Information Germantown Historical Society	89
Some of the Wild Flowers found in Germantown (From old plates)	90
Bonnin & Morris—1770–1772 — *By Jean C. Woodruff*	91
Identification of "Tour" Photos	92
Index of Advertisers	94

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Miss Helen M. Comly
The Baynton House, 5208 Germantown Avenue

Editor
Miss Helen M. Comly
615 Vernon Road, Phila., Pa. 19119
Wallace S. Martindale, Jr., *Controller*

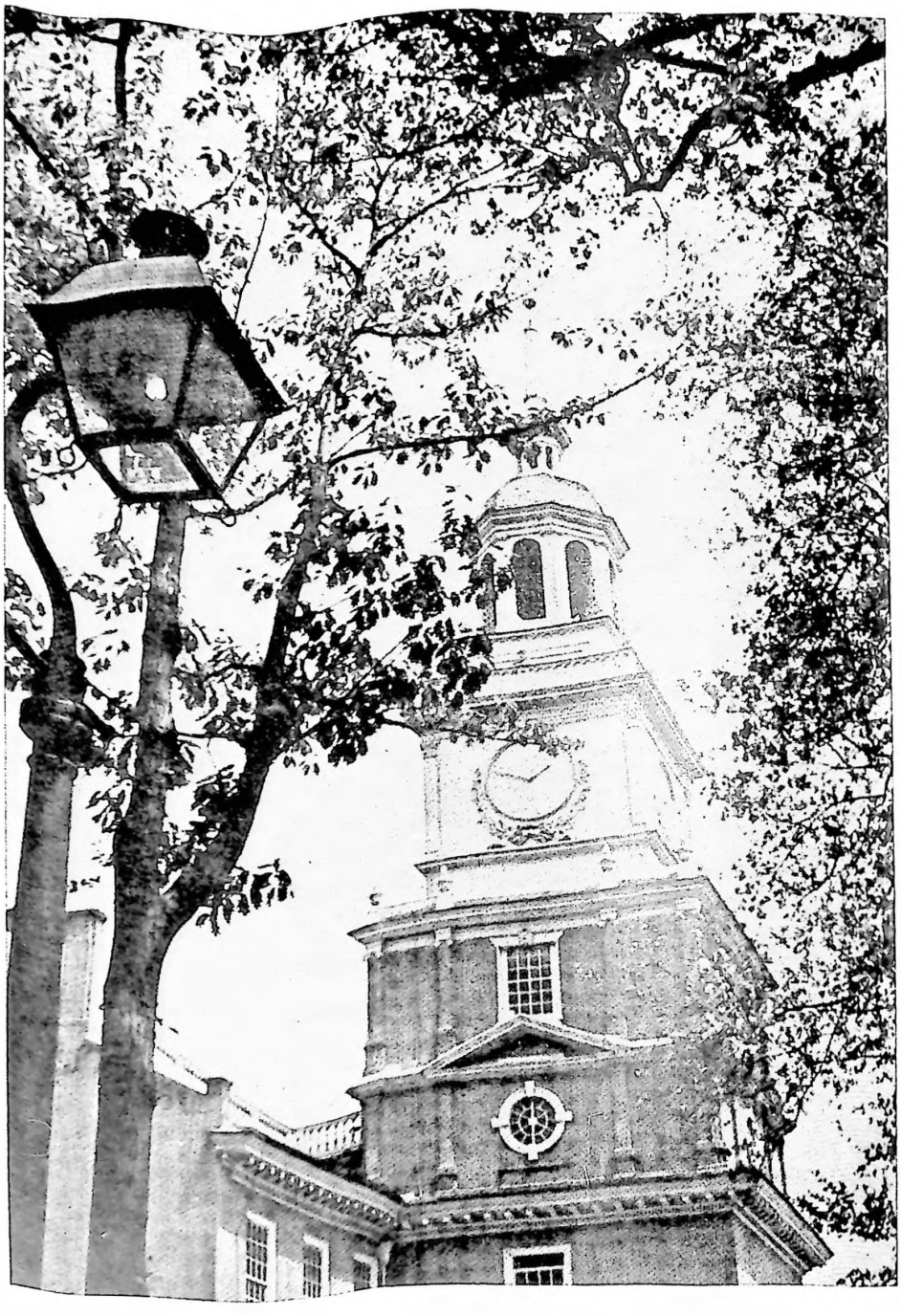
EDITORIAL STAFF

Mrs. Ralph H. Belcher
Mrs. M. Bacon Bostwick
Mrs. Theodore Finckh
Mrs. John W. Farr
Mrs. Mulford B. Simons
Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom

Editorial contributions should be mailed to the Germantowne Crier, 5208 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

Frank J. Ollinger, *Advertising Representative* 29 W. Walnut Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144 Telephone: VI 3-0295

Published as Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Issues
Germantown Historical Society
5214 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144
VI 4-0514



History was made here on July 4, 1776

Independence Hall, on Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pa.



History was made here, too

On May 6, 1761, with the founding of Kirk & Nice, the first and oldest funeral establishment in America.

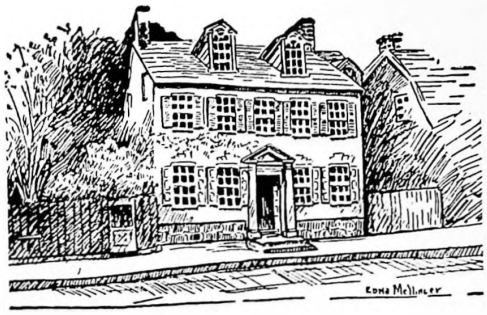
Kirk & Nice is small building (with sign on front) at far left. Larger building in center of picture is old Washington Hotel. Narrow street separating two buildings is early Washington Lane.

KIRK & NICE

Germantown Ave. & Washington Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144 GE 8-6328

Still owned and operated by the eighth generation of the founding family, Mr. and Mrs. J. Malcolm Henderson • Also: The Kirk & Nice Suburban Chapel, Germantown Pike & Marple Lane, in historic Plymouth Meeting, Pa. 828-7845







Deshler-Morris House
(The Germantown White House)
5442 Germantown Avenue

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. Between 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 aloug 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

GERMANTOWN, THE NINTH NATIONAL CAPITOL

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.

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.

Reprinted from Vol. 1 No. 4, December, 1949 of the Germantowne CRIER.

GROBEN'S

SEA FOOD

▼

6833 GERMANTOWN AVE.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19119

PHONE: VI 3-4717

▼

MON. 9-12 • TUES. 9-6 • WED. 9-6

THURS. 9-6 • FRI. 6-6 • SAT. 9-12

Deshler-Morris House Orientation Training Session for Volunteer Guides—September 19, 1975 at Trinity Lutheran Church from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.—short break for lunch.

Subjects to be covered

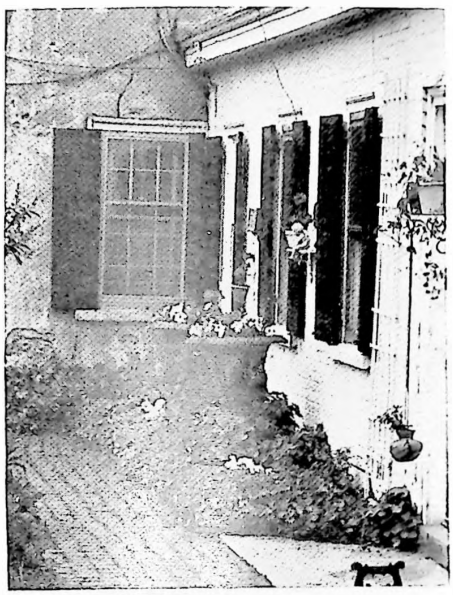
Physical History
Historical Associations
Furnishings



No. 1



No. 2



No. 3

HOW MANY CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

All are a well-known part of historic sites included in the Germantown Historical Society's Tour on Sunday, May 18, 1975.

Please turn to Page 92 for answers.

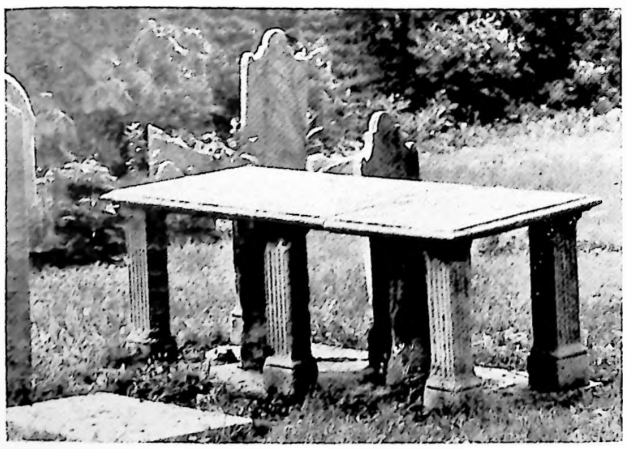
Photos by Rob Stauffer



No. 4



No. 5



No. 6

Gardens and Gardeners of Germantown

By Edwin C. Jellett

Portions of a paper read by Mr. Jellett before the Site and Relic Society of Germantown January 19, 1912 and published by the Society (now the Germantown Historical Society) in 1914.

IN GERMANTOWN, during its formative period, homes were "few and far between," and all known gardens were given to the growing of kitchen and medicinal plants. But as the settlement progressed, roof-covered cellars gave way to houses of logs, so these in turn gave way to others of wood and stone. From 1683 to 1707 were erected the stone houses of Thones Kunder, Jacob Telner, Isaac Dilbeck, Francis Daniel Pastorius, Jan Doeden, Jacob Schumacker, and other like, but doubtless the most pretentious house of the early settlement, was that of Hans Milan, built in 1690, and later incorporated in "Wyck."

"Fair-Hill," east of the German tract, but frequently referred to in connection with it, was built in 1716. Following this from the year 1727 to 1738, appeared the forerunners of the representative type,—"Stenton," "Billmeyer" or "Widow Deshler" and "Dirck Keyser Houses," and these with their grounds, mark the highest garden development of the first period. They also set the pace for the expansive period to follow.

From a certain view-point, "Fair Hill" is apart from our subject, but from another one, it has much to do with it, for without question, it was the model upon which the Germantown early gardens of the better class were after patterned, and from it, at a later period was issued the celebrated "Farmer Letters" of John Dickinson. Only a short time before his death, Pastorius referred to Fair Hill Garden as "the one keeping the finest I hitherto have seen in the whole country, fitted with abundance of rarities, physical, and metaphysical."

Of it, Deborah Logan later wrote, "Fair Hill, built and occupied by Isaac Norris, was considered the most beautiful country seat in Pennsylvania. The courts and gardens were in the taste of those times with gravel walks and parterres. Many lofty trees were preserved around the house, which added greatly to its beauty and at the time of my remembrance the out-buildings were covered with festoons of ivy, and scarlet bignonia."

Contemporaneous with the gardens of Dr. Witt was the garden of "Stenton," planted by James Logan in 1720. We have no definite knowledge whether it was small or great. We do know, its products were most valuable, for in it, and about it, Logan acquired sufficient knowledge to interest and instruct his friends at home and abroad. From it in 1735, James Logan communicated to Peter Collinson an account of his experiments in maize, which was printed in the "Philadelphia transactions" for the year. These experiments were undertaken to investigate the sexual theory of plants, which had first been advanced by Dr. Nehemiah Grew. An order of plants by Robert Brown named Loganiaceae, which includes the beautiful yellow flowering jasmine of the Southern United States, preserves the name of James Logan to naturalists, until botanical records shall be no more. The garden of Stenton so far as preserved, was of the box-bordered type, was known for its fine trees, and especially for an avenue of hemlock trees planted in 1739, which extended from the mansion to the cemetery near.

The year 1740 marks about the beginnings of important movements in the progress of Germantown. As yet the tortuous pike continued a "dirt-road,"—in "soft" weather, impassable, at all times trying to those who were compelled to use it, though a few desirable cross roads, "laid out" to mills and to other resorts, gave partial relief. The village continued to straggle along for a mile or more, composed in the main of low substantial stone houses which had succeeded the log dwellings of the first settlers, but "mansions" to adorn the landscapes were yet to come. Indeed, in the year given, there stood on the pike and near it, in Germantown, only the pretentious buildings previously named, with the addition of a few taverns and churches.

But a young, industrious growing country made trade active, and the resultant required outlets of larger convenience. Trade and industry brought "means," means helped culture, and these with natural advantages of location, gave opportunities which those equipped were prompt to accept, so that within a span of 63 years, or from 1740 to 1803, every large house upon "Main Street" from Negley's Hill to Mount Airy, all with worthy gardens,—and such public buildings as Concord School, and Union School, or Germantown Academy, appeared to enlarge and dignify the "town."

"When a person had bought a piece of land, which perhaps had never been ploughed since the creation, he cut down part of the wood, tore up the roots, ploughed the ground, sowed corn on it, and the first time got a plentiful crop. But the same land being tilled for several years successively, without being manured, it at last must, of course, lose its fertility. Its possessor, therefore, leaves it fallow, and proceeds to another part of his ground, which he treats in the same manner. Thus he goes on till he has changed a great part of his possessions into corn fields and by that means deprived the ground of its fertility. He then returns to the first field, which now is pretty well recovered; this he again tills as long as it will afford him a good crop, but when its fertility is exhausted, he leaves it fallow again, and proceeds to the rest as before." "Almost all the houses hereabouts were built either of stone or bricks, but those of stone were more numerous."

One of the most observing visitors to Germantown was Gottlieb Mittelberger, who in 1754 wrote, "The people live well, especially on all sorts of grain, which thrives very well, because the soil is wild and fat. They grow chiefly rye, wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat, corn, flax, hemp, fruit, cabbage and turnips. They also have good cattle, fast horses, and many bees." "Hogs and poultry, especially turkeys, are raised by almost everybody. In this country, the chickens are not put in houses by night, nor are they looked after; but they sit summer and winter upon the trees near the houses; every evening many a tree is so full of chickens that the boughs bend beneath them. The poultry is in no danger from beasts of prey, because every plantation owner has a big dog, if not more, at large around the house." "Peach and cherry trees many a farmer plants in whole avenues from one plantation to the other, and they yield an abundant crop. One sort of peaches are inside and outside red as large as a lemon, but round and smooth, and they are ripe about St. Bartholomew's Day" (August twenty-fourth). "Again there are some waxen yellow, red streaked, and green as grass.

"There is also a sort called clingstones; they are sweet when they are ripe; they are often preserved before they are quite ripe, like cucumbers. Pears there are but few, and damsons none, because they will not thrive, and are often spoiled by the mildew." "In Pennsylvania, as throughout North America, from Acadia to Mexico, plenty of wild black and white vines may be seen, which grow in the forests around the oak trees and along the hedges. Many a vine is at the bottom as thick as a tree, and it often is so full of grapes that the boughs of the trees bend beneath them.

"In the blossom time the grapes have a very strong odor, and in October they are ripe. They make some wine of them, but it costs much sugar. Large quantities of grapes are taken to the markets of Philadelphia. Such grapes would be much better if the vines were cut as in Europe, but as the people live too far apart, and as the wild animals and birds would do much injury to the vines, there will be no vine growing for a long time to come."

Mittelberger of course wrote in a general way of the country lying between Germantown and Trappe, and while his conclusions do not always satisfy, his observations fairly acquaint us with the methods of the tillers of the soil. He further continues:

"Sassafras trees, which are not to be found in Europe, are plentiful here; the best heart-tea can be made of its blossoms; the wood and the roots are especially good for medicines. There are trees that are as thick as a man around the loins. The leaves look and smell like laurel leaves; the blossoms are gold-colored, just like the primrose, but much finer. For my home journey, I collected and took with us a package of sassafras flowers or blossoms, which were my best medicine on my voyage. There are many sugar trees (maple) here which are as thick and high as an oak-tree; in spring, when they are in full sap, the sugar-water may be tapped from them." "The sugar trees usually stand in forests near the brooks, and they grow wild. The beautiful tulip trees grow frequently here. In the month of May, when they are in blossoms, they are full of tulips; these look yellow and tabied red, and are as natural as those that grow out of the ground (from bulbs). The trees are as thick and high as the tallest cherry-trees. I saw another species of tulip trees with their blossoms which are planted in the gardens, but are not larger than dwarf apple or pear trees; they do not bloom until August, and are white and tabied red. Of the first-named larger species of tulip-trees no blossoms are seen until they are twenty years old and over. Many other kinds and species of trees, flowers and herbs, and also grain are found in America. The daisy, for instance, which is so frequent, and therefore so little esteemed with us, is as rare in Pennsylvania as the rarest and most beautiful flowers in Europe can be, and it is planted in the gardens as a rare flower. Quite as rare there, is the juniper-shrub, which is esteemed much higher than the Rosemary with us, and the juniper-berries are sold for a higher price than peppercorns. The juniper-shrubs are also cultivated in gardens. Quite as rare are all other European flowers and herbs, and so, what is not highly esteemed in Germany is rare and dear in America; and vice-versa, what is not highly esteemed here is precious in Germany." "All through Pennsylvania not a single meadow-saffron is seen in the gardens and meadows in autumn. The wood in the above-named new country grows fast and is much taller, but less durable than with us. It is quite surprising how dense the forests are, and what beautiful, smooth, thick and tall trees they contain. There are many kinds of trees, mostly oaks, but they are not so fruitful as those in Germany. Often there are also beech-trees but not many. Birch-trees are rarely found, but I saw some that were very tall and as thick

as a thick oak tree. I have already spoken of the Poplars; they have soft wood which looks snow-white inside; there are many of them. Walnut trees are exceedingly plentiful; this beautiful coffee-brown and hard-wood is precious and useful, because all sorts of fine and elegant household furniture are made of it. When cut, a great deal of it is shipped to Holland, England, Ireland, and other countries where it brings a high price. These walnut-trees bear every year nuts which are as large as a medium-sized apple, from which much oil is made. They have bark and leaves like our large nut trees. Our large German walnut-trees are little cultivated as yet. There are but few hazel-nut shrubs in the forests, but of chestnut-trees there is a multitude; no less so of hecker (hickory) nuts which are larger than hazel-nuts, but are held in little esteem. Indian or wild cherry trees are not seen very frequently; I myself broke such Indian cherries from the trees and ate them, but they are not as good as European cherries. In the Pennsylvania forests one finds no thorn or sloe hedges, no downy gooseberries and the like. The greatest ornament of the forests are the beautiful and excellent cedar-trees; they grow mostly on the high mountains.

"The wood has a very strong odor, is as light as foam, and especially precious for organ pipes, for the pipes made of said cedar-wood have a much finer and purer tone than those of tin, of which I have seen sufficient proofs. All homes in Philadelphia are roofed with shingles of cedar-wood. When a heavy rain pours down upon it, this wood sounds like a roof of copper or brass." So Mittelberger moves on in his entertaining narrative.

As may be readily imagined, the Revolutionary War put a stop to all improvements, and destitution over-ran the land. At this time a most interesting account is that of John David Schoepf, who refers to Germantown as being "between 2 and 3 miles long. All the houses stand off more or less from each other and each one has around, or near it, grounds, gardens, and thrifty out-buildings. Most of the houses are well and substantially built of stone, and some indeed are really beautiful. One of the finest is the house at the northern end of the place in which Col. Musgrave in the action of 1776–77, with a company of British Light Infantry, defended himself so bravely against a large body of the American Army." Schoepf also refers to the fact, that "in the direction of Germantown there are still many sad traces of the war in burned and ruined houses." This was in the year 1784, and we further learn from the work of Schoepf, that Germantown was again upon the upward move,—for "there are many well-to-do people among the inhabitants; and much property and many houses here are owned by Philadelphians, who make use of this place as a Summer retreat,—and in general, on account of its nearness, frequent excursions are made hither. On Sundays, the whole road is covered with the wagons and carriages of the pleasure-loving Philadelphians."

This also coincides with the description of the Rev. John C. Ogden, who 15 years later stated, "The houses in Germantown are very universally shaded with weeping-willows, the Lombardy poplar, and other ornamental trees. The gardens are under excellent cultivation, with valuable fields to their rear."

"Fern-Hill," the first of Germantown's finest and most conspicuous estates, stands upon an elevation facing the southwestern boundary of the township. As reported by a committee of the Horticultural Society of Pennsylvania in 1830; it "commands a delightful prospect, which extends beyond the city, embracing of course, in this fine view, the whole of Philadelphia and its suburbs, the whole of their 30,000 dwelling houses, all fresh and in excellent repair, and inhabited by 170,000 people. The country, in other directions wears a smiling prospect, corresponding in beauty with that of the city. The garden, green-house and collection of plants rank in the first class. The proprietor is distinguished for his generous encouragement of horticulture, importing at great cost, rare plants, the best kind of fruits and culinary vegetables. Among his rare plants may be seen laurus, oleas, neriums of several varieties from China; Jasminums, Hallerias, Punicas,—among which is the pleno-alba; some fine camellias,—mostly imported from Canton. The glass consists of a green-house 90 feet long, two pits 60 feet, besides framing for early cauliflowers, etc. This place excels the neighborhood in the production of the blooming Ranunculus. They appear to agree with an elevated situation in this climate. The root is subject to injury from a snall white worm.

"The tea rose flourishes in a superior manner here. Cultivated in frames, it grows as large as any other rose bush in the garden. We saw some covered with flowers, the odoriferous perfume of which is very delightful. Mr. Clapier possesses, perhaps, the greatest variety of pear trees of any private gentleman hereabouts (except Mr. Girard), many of which he has imported from France. It is almost useless to say that the garden and grounds are in complete order, and stocked with every kind of vegetable and shrub. Everyone who knows the proprietor and reputation of the place will take that for granted. Tropical fruits and flowering trees surround the mansion and display the richness and variety of flora to the best advantage."

This is a description of "Fern Hill" as conducted under the direction of Martin Baumann. The estate originally extended from Pulaski Avenue, or "Plank Road," to Wissahickon Avenue, or Lamb Tavern Road, and from Abbotsford Avenue, to Nicetown Lane, or Ford Road. Its owner was Louis Clapier, who was born in France in the year 1765, came to America in the year 1796, and died in the year 1838.

Townsend Ward records that besides "a fondness for raising fat cattle, he had an equal passion for fruits and flowers, and no visitor left him without a basket of flowers, or of grapes, should they be in

season." At Fern Hill, Louis Clapier was succeeded by Henry Pratt McKean.

Dr. Samuel Betton of "White Cottage," situated upon Bockius Lane or Manheim Street, as early as 1830, had a collection of plants of sufficient merit to receive the commendation of Robert Buist, the well-known plant grower of "Pratt's Garden" at Lemon Hill. Upon a visit in the year given, he wrote: "We observed a plant of Nandina domestica in full flower—it is the largest we have seen. Here is likewise a plant of andropogon schaenanthus, which the doctor says makes a very delicious tea; an uncommonly large plant of Laegerstraemia Indica, that stands the open air; some very fine China Orange trees, and several other valuable plants. The greenhouse is 40 ft.; a pit 36 ft.; besides framing. The kitchen garden contains one acre, which is judiciously cropt, and well stocked with fruit trees, among the latter is a very rich cream colored plum, streaked on the part exposed to the sun and transparent; it is said to be a seedling, and of a rich flavor. A pear orchard of considerable extent is just beginning to bear, and contains 150 varieties. It bids fair to rival some of the old orchards."

During "Centennial Year," however, everyone locally wakened, and the great exhibition created by John Welsh of "Spring Bank," if it did no more, stirred Philadelphia, and Germantown like "a strong man rising from sleep" roused itself, a host of workmen with picks and shovels, with battering rams and strength, invaded its territory, graded and paved with Belgian blocks its well-known highway, elevated some of its houses, leaving others depressed, raised such a clatter and bang, that the echoes continued until the horsecars were driven out, and trolleys came rolling in, giving the contented, happy, dear old easy-going town, such a shaking that it has not had a chance to doze since. Alert in spite of its inclinations, the town's enlargement continued, new streets were opened, old streets were changed and rebuilt, a new railroad entered to open up "West-side," two trolley lines in addition to that of Main Street came unbidden, "land associations," in parts took possession, and for better or for worse, we are what we are this day, possessing as yet the most beautiful town I know, but apprehensive, bearing the encroachments of a pressing, unsympathetic, unrelenting future.

But the greatest and most important of local improvements was not the change in character of Main Street,—it was the development of "West-side," of "Pelham," of "Sedgwick," and the like, but supremely that of Fairmount Park, the Wissahickon section of which extends through Germantown's western territory, and which cleared and renaturated, influenced the whole city of Philadelphia.

At the close of the Centennial Exhibition, Charles H. Miller, as chief gardener, was placed in charge of the floral decoration of Fairmount Park, his office being in Horticultural Hall, and here under him served John Finnety, and George Ballantine, both well known local florists, and John Welsh Young, the popular rose-grower of "Spring Bank," who is nationally well known as "Phil" by his contributions to the "Florists' Exchange." Mr. Miller continued in charge of the work at Horticultural Hall until his death November 2, 1902. The youngest, largest and most favorably situated of our nurseries is "Andorra," founded by Samuel F. Houston, but now owned and conducted by William Warner Harper, whose efficient foreman is J. Howes Humphreys. Andorra Nurseries are situated upon Wissahickon Creek, partly in Philadelphia and partly in Montgomery Counties, and may be justly classed as one of the most notable and beautiful in America.

The first importer and distributor of seeds and plants in Germantown, was Christian Lehman. In the same district the first to regularly engage in the growing of miscellaneous plants for sale was Martin Baumann. Between the times of Lehman and Baumann, the country lived through two wars,—progress for a time was stayed, and large places were obliged to rely upon their own resources, or upon the nurseries to the south. As we have seen at that time and for long after, there were no "landscape engineers," and gardening as a caretaking occupation was carried on by men of ability, such as William Berry, of Lehman Street, who had been gardener at "Fairfield;" James Daniels, of Main Street; John Hart, of West Schoolhouse Lane; J. Keenan, of Main Street; George Higgins, of West Washington Lane; William Kent, and James Gleason, of Mount Airy, for as yet professionals were few,—Peter McKenzie, with others as previously mentioned, being all to the near east and south, while Frederick Allgair, and David Ferguson, took care of the lower west, the upper west and north being without professional flower growers.

After Martin Baumann, Henry C. Woltemate, an educated German who came to this country and first established a nursery at Tacony, in 1848 came to and located upon Main Street near Indian Queen Lane, where after, his widow, Esther Woltemate, continued the business. She was succeeded by her sons, Albert and William, and the plant is now conducted by the Albert Woltemate Estate. The Civil War temporarily hindered garden improvements, but notwithstanding many discouragements, J. H. Campbell appeared upon Germantown Road at Nicetown, William H. Wagner, John G. and Christian Eisele at Upper Tioga, Donald McQueen, who had been gardener to Joshua Longstreth, upon "Lamb Tavern Road," and Daniel Curtain, once gardener to Benjamin Leedom, upon Nicetown Lane, east of Reading Railroad. Philip Schaffer also built upon Thorp's Lane, near "Harper's Hollow," where he was succeeded by Edwin Lonsdale, once a grower in California, for several years, when he sold to William P. Kulp, and relocated at "Spring Village," associating with him John Burton, of Chew and Upper Church Streets, the firm being known as Lonsdale & Burton, and its place becoming a center

of a flower producing district, which includes Thomas Butler, Myers & Santman, Gilbert Woltemate, and others. Robert J. Siddall built upon Fisher's Lane near Stenton Avenue, while James Barrows did the same upon Wakefield Street near Wister Street, where his sons now occupy his place.

Thomas Weiss succeeded to a stand conducted by Mrs. Roberts upon Manheim Street, near Pulaski Avenue, where also Eugene Weiss had a greenhouse, nearby being the greenhouses of George A. Laughlin while upon Seymour Street to the rear of the "plants" described, were the greenhouses of Harry Weiss. Patrick McDowell built upon Queen Street opposite Knox Street. Thomas Hendricks who had been gardener to John J. Smith at "Ivy Lodge," built upon Wayne Avenue opposite Handsberry Street; William Berger, who had been gardener to Caspar Heft and A. Blane, built upon Queen Lane near Wayne Street, and is now upon Main Street nearly opposite to Armat Street. William J. Young, who made a specialty of producing winter fruits, such as cucumbers, tomatoes and the like, had his greenhouses at School House Lane and Pulaski Avenue, where his son now is. Myles Y. Warren, who was gardener to Moses Brown, built at the northwest corner of Rittenhouse Street and Wissahickon Avenue. John Kinnier, one of the most active men in the formation of the Germantown Horticultural Society, built upon Haines Street at the corner of Engle Street. Henry Haines upon Haines Street near Chew Street, where he was succeeded by John Henry, and Robert Gilmore.

William Grassie followed Saunders at the southeast corner of Greene and Johnson Streets, and David Cliffe built upon Johnson Street near Main Street, which place was after conducted by his son Walter, after by David Cliffe's widow, the same now being owned by Emil H. Geschick. Upon Main Street, above Mount Pleasant Avenue built Samuel E. Graver. Upon East Mount Airy Avenue in 1882, Joseph E. Smith built, and also George S. Woodruff, the latter being succeeded by Henry C. Woltemate, the second. Upon Main Street near Mount Airy Avenue, Lewis Bilger built. Their successors were the "Mount Airy Floral Exchange," and Max H. Rothe. John Savage located upon Cresheim Road near Mount Pleasant Avenue; Archibald Lawson, who had been gardener to Henry Howard Houston, of "Druim Moir," built upon Willow Grove Avenue, and Louis Motsch, built upon Main Street near Willow Grove Avenue,—a place which has disappeared. Representatives of a class semi-professional, who traded, loaned, or sold the surplus of their growings, thereby benefitting their employers and proving a great convenience to the professionals, were Alexander Newitt, John Noonan, William J. Beatty, William Berger, P. McCormick, Alexander Lawson, and William Cochrane. There were also planning gardeners, those capable of "laying out work," such as Charles Speaker, Christian Shortwell, Cornelius Shine, and Anthony Virtue. Also competent jobbing gardeners many, such as Michael McGlinn, Joseph Martin, John Thompson, Samuel Brown, William McGregor, Patrick Gallagher, Bernard Connelly, Charles Malarky, Richard McGrath, Michael Geary, John Gorman, all of whom, and numerous others like, who did a general trimming, cutting and planting business. It was from these fields by "layering," by "cuttings," or by seed plantings that Germantown itself is as beautiful as it is.

From the times of Pastorius, Logan, and Kuhn, until the present, Germantown has never been without botanists,—while the best American plant-students, such as Bartram, Muhlenberg, Nuttall, Rafinesque, Barton, Darlington, and Gray have visited it. As we cannot present all, let us name as representatives of a worthy group: Charles J. Wister, William Wynne Wister, Dr. D. H. Briggs, Edgar Cope, Henry Carvill Lewis, William Kite, Dr. George Rex, and Miss Mary Cope of the past; and of the present: Miss Susan Kite, Roberts Le Boutillier, Edward Neville, Samuel S. Van Pelt, Herman T. Wolf, Rev. Francis Heyl, Prof. Witmer Stone, George Redles, Prof. Stewardson Brown, Dr. Spencer Trotter, Dr. I. Pearson Willits, Prof. George Kaiser, Dr. Herman Burgin, Dr. J. E. Burnett Buckenham, Robert F. Welsh, Mrs. William Redwood Wright, Richard H. Day, Clayton S. Wertsner, James Arnold, Morris E. Leeds, Miss Anna A. Gorgas, Frank Miles Day, Dr. William J. Campbell, Joseph Meehan, and Dr. James Darrach,—the nestor of Germantown Botanists, who, in 1853, presented a list of "Plants appearing in flower in the neighborhood of Philadelphia from February to November."

The list appears endless and we might go on indefinitely, but limitations will not permit.

Now leaving commercial floricultural fields, let us proceed to a hurried consideration of the products which art and nature, combined with intelligence, and honest labor, were enabled to produce. Upon Main Street or near it, from Negley's Hill to Chelten Avenue, are, or were several fine gardens. Among these should be named the gardens of Toland, Mechlin, Henry, Heft, and Conyngham, upon Main Street; the side lane gardens being those of T. Charlton Henry, upon Fisher's Lane; Hacker's, upon Wister Street; Rosengarten, Betton, Newhall, Justice, Erringer, and Price, gardens upon Manheim Street; G. Wilbur Russell's upon Seymour Street; "Carlton," upon Indian Queen Lane; "Ivy Lodge," upon Shoemaker Lane; William Chancellor, Jacob Fry, Dr William J. Campbell, E. W. Clark, Justice C. Strawbridge, Jeremiah Brown, Moses Brown, George L. Harrison and William Weightman's gardens upon School House Lane, and William Schaeffer's upon Armat Street. These past and present gardens stand out conspicuously, but there are many other gardens such as those of Francis B. Reeves, Joseph S. Lovering, Edward T. Steel, Dr. Samuel K. Ashton, and Samuel Welsh, which merit, and if space permitted,

would receive our attention, but as they are much like the first named gardens, we shall pass them to briefly present the former. Some possessed the classic box, others were known for their beautiful trees or hedges, and that of G. Wilbur Russell was noted for its exhibitions of massed blooms, and striking hedge of Rambler Roses.

The beauty of "Loudoun" was in its position, for its garden of 1880 was of the ordinary utility variety as I remember it.

We retrace to Bockius Lane, now known as Manheim Street, and so named by Jacque Marie Roset, "in honor of a German town whose inhabitants he admired." Roset was fond of flowers and had a fine garden in which dahlias predominated. Townsend Ward states that when Fanny Kemble passed Roset's home upon her usual morning ride, the gallant old gentleman always had a bouquet in waiting for her. Both Fanny Kemble and her daughter, Mrs. Owen J. Wister, were fond of saddle riding, and their usual route to Wissahickon,—a place they loved,—was by Duy's Lane, Manheim Street, and Wissahickon Avenue. Once, while passing out Manheim Street, Fanny Kemble's horse became frightened, when she was thrown, painfully hurt, and was taken to L. C. Baumann's residence until she had sufficiently recovered to proceed.

At northwest corner of Manheim Street and Green Lane,—so named because of its rows of trees,—but now Greene Street, was an impressive grove of trees covering the spacious grounds of Joseph G. Rosengarten, public-spirited citizen, writer, now President of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The grounds are now entirely built over, as are also those of "White Cottage," the estate of Dr. Samuel Betton, adjoining, after, of Dr. Thomas Forrest Betton.

Upon Wissahickon Avenue, directly opposite Manheim Street, stands the residence of E. B. Gardette. We refer to it not on account of its gardens, and fine trees, but to state that in Philadelphia here was first shown the "love-apple," or tomato,—the plant originally being grown for decorative purposes, it being a member of the "Night Shade Family," and supposed to be deadly poisonous. At this same place it is also recorded, that melons or canteloupes were first in America grown, the seed being brought from Tripoli, by Commodore James Barron, who lived upon Main Street near Manheim Street.

Germantown, it would appear, had a preference for the native Plane Tree, for it was generally planted, and it was rare to find a hotel or a public building without one or more specimens near. In the minutes of Germantown Bank is recorded—"on 22nd of February, 1861, the large Buttonwood tree in front of the Bank was ordered to be removed in consequence of its being deemed dangerous to travel, the road being much narrowed by the laying of railroad tracks. This tree"—quoting Charles J. Wister—"is about 100 years old, and is 80 feet high, and 9 feet in circumference."

From "Conyngham" House, there is an unbroken line of fine old gardens, but we shall pass them to stop at the latter, now known as the "Hacker House," owned by Mr. Edward I. H. and Miss Anna Howell, and occupied by Dr. John A. Murphy. Upon the front lawn here was a fine specimen of the rare "creeping yew," and at the rear of the house was one of the first "wild flower" gardens in Germantown, it containing native plants from many sections of the United States. The garden also possessed many rare shrubs, a unique variety of weeping oak, and a noted grove of "overcup" oak trees.

"Grumblethorpe" presents one of the oldest and one of our most attractive gardens. The "Grumblethorpe" or Wister garden is located directly upon Main Street, opposite to Queen Lane. It is a herbaceous garden of the old fashioned type, having fine walks, box-bordered, covered at stations by trellises. Its beds for vegetables and flowers are systematically arranged, and in them perennial plants develop, and flower with the season's progress, so that from the flowering of the "Christmas Rose," until the flowering of the witch-hazel, the garden almost continuously is in bloom. In the garden are many fine trees, but the gem among many varieties is a "Sugar Pear" tree which has been bearing fruit continuously for nearly 160 years, a tree yet vigorous, and out-topping every pear tree I know. It may be worth recording, that this tree had been bearing fruit for several years before the better known "Lady Petre pear tree" of John Bartram's garden had been imported. The garden was constructed before the days of landscape engineers in America, and it is a worthy memorial to the skill and care of generations of the Wister family.

Turning now into Shoemaker's Lane, a noteworthy garden was that of "Ivy Lodge," whose owner was John Jay Smith. John Jay Smith was born at Green Hill, near Burlington, N. J., June 16, 1798. In the year 1849, he came to Germantown, where he built on Shoemaker's Lane, near Main Street, "Ivy Lodge," which he occupied in December, 1850, and where he continued to dwell and work until his death, September 23, 1881. The fine garden at "Ivy Lodge" was planted under his direction, so arranged that one might wander about the place for an hour and still continue to find objects of interest, and scarcely realize the fact when ultimately informed that this charming spot with its beautiful lawn, belts of shrubbery, numerous rare trees and shrubs, fruit gardens, vegetable garden, greenhouse, stable, etc., are all on a small city lot of less than two acres. "Ivy Lodge" is a singular triumph of garden art.

In connection with this garden an interesting fact is recited in "Recollections of John Jay Smith" edited by Elizabeth P. Smith. John Jay Smith while in England and visiting Granville John Penn, wrote, "one morning at my suggestion we (Mr. Penn and I), planted two cedars of Lebanon, which he procured for the purpose, and named them the Treaty Trees of Penn

and Logan. He informed me at a later period that they are growing finely. This operation was repeated at my garden in Germantown, 1851, where the Penn Cedar still flourishes (1872)."

Whenever in the garden at "Grumblethorpe" I think it the most beautiful garden of the perennial type in our midst. Whenever in the garden at "Wyck," I feel that there is our finest specimen of the "wild flower garden" type. Another type is that shown upon the grounds of Thomas Drake, East Washington Lane and Morton Streets, a stiff, geometrical, and to me a negative type, which I have always thought had better not been born. The last of the types in mind is the "classical," picturesque, dignified, impressive type, most beautifully exhibited upon the grounds of Elliston P. Morris, Main Street opposite Mill Street, where through the open gate, glimpses of this garden gem may be enjoyed. The original garden here was of the ordinary flower and vegetable type, and we need only refer to it. The present arrangement and effects were planned by Charles H. Miller in the year 1867. In arranging the new garden, the trees of the first garden were not disturbed, and several trees now somewhat the worse by reason of destructive storms, are supposed to have been part of the place when President Washington occupied it.

The garden is 100 feet wide and 435 feet long, and throughout it is most beautiful. Several of the trees were by Dr. John A. Warder, an eminent authority, pronounced unique, and in it impressive specimens of box are known to be over 100 years old.

In "Rare and Notable Plants of Germantown," the trees of this garden are described, and for the annual provision for the garden, we shall quote Mr. Morris, its respected owner: "In early June when the grass is springing green and fresh, comes perhaps the most attractive time for my lawn, when after the winter storms and snows, my 2500 or 3000 bulbous roots come into bloom in all their glory. These are freshly imported every year, sending out my orders in June or July, and receiving the bulbs in October. I prefer planting them about 'Thanksgiving,' and only occasionally have I been at fault, and sometimes have been obliged to remove a couple of inches of frosted earth from the surface of the beds, but I prefer to run that risk and keep the bulbs out of the ground as long as possible, fearing their too early start." At this place Lady Washington grew hyacinths in globes of cut glass, which when she left Germantown, she presented to Catherine Deshler, a daughter of the "Widow Deshler," as recorded by Townsend Ward.

Proceeding out historic School House Lane, we note next to Germantown Academy, the "Dove" or "Herman" house, long the residence of Mr. John Alburger. This once possessed a beautiful garden and fruitful orchard, and it yet presents a horse-chestnut tree of large proportions, said to have been planted by President Washington, when he occupied the place in 1785. Of as much interest and of more value is the fact, that upon these grounds was raised the "Chancellor Pear," having a fruit with white juicy flesh, a desirable addition secured by Mr. William Chancellor, when he occupied the place. Samuel Emlen's grounds and gardens were upon Coulter Street, at the rear of Chancellor's House.

Beyond Wayne Avenue west of William J. Young's greenhouses, is the garden of Dr. William J. Campbell, wherein, under the care of Miss Mary A. Campbell, an artist botanist, have been grown, sturdy specimens of the rare Halesia, Stuartia, Cedar of Lebanon, Styrax, and the most notable of all shrubs,—the gordonia or "Franklin" tree.

Almost without exception the estates upon West School House Lane possess fine gardens. In 1908 Mr. Justice C. Strawbridge wrote me,—the grounds of "Torworth" had not been changed for 50 years, and that his deeds showed there had been no change in the size of the place "for at least 175 years," a fact he considered remarkable on account of its proximity to a large city. In all our territory I do not know a picture as restful as that of "Torworth," and an attempt to convey its beauty by description I fear would be futile. The grounds have long been celebrated for their beauty, and the credit is largely due to Archibald Henderson, who in 1846 was gardener to Wharton Chancellor, its flower-loving owner. The E. W. Clark, Ketterlinus, Warden, Mason, Wright, Lovering, Steel, Waln, Warner, George L. Harrison, Dr. Ashton, Samuel Welsh, John Wagner, C. C. Harrison, and William Weightman gardens, we may only have a look at as we pass, for almost every garden indicated is worthy of complete presentation. Two gardens, those of Jeremiah and Moses Brown, are exceptional, and must not be omitted. Each is distinct, and both in bewildering prodigality are stocked with the rarest of shrubs and trees. In 1816, this place belonged to the celebrated Dr. Casper Wistar, for whom wisteria sinensis was named, and it was doubtless due to his knowledge, that many unusual plants there appear. Gardener here for many years was Myles Y. Warren, who lived at "Rittenhouse-Town," and who conducted a florists' establishment at the northwest corner of Rittenhouse Street, and Wissahickon Avenue, the site of whose place is now part of Fairmount Park.

One who walks about "Vernon Mansion," has before him several of the most magnificent trees in Germantown.

The row of young buttonwood trees along the front was placed there by the "Germantown Horticultural Society," a society which also in part placed the pin oak trees in Market Square. The large maple tree near the "Free Library Building" was planted in 1840 by James Gowen and "Harry" Bruner, so Mr. Bruner told me. Throughout the park are holly, papaw, cypress, oak and many other interesting trees but we shall note but two, the fine yew tree which stands to the west of "Vernon," and Meng's magnolia, which

stands to the rear. It is of course to be understood that the latter name is "local," for the tree is a native of the Southern United States, the seed being brought to Germantown by Kin, and planted by John Melchior Meng. Vernon's magnolia is noted not because it is rare, but because it is the first specimen of its kind introduced to Germantown gardens.

Opposite Vernon Park, eastward, is "Old Price Street," opened by Eli K. Price, an indefatigable worker, who will always be remembered in connection with the development of Fairmount Park.

Price Street upon each side and throughout its length, was lined by beautiful, though not large gardens. Conspicuous among many were those of George Wharton Hamersley, publisher; W. Beaumont Whitney, merchant; James R. Lambdin, artist; Charles Wister, retired, and that of John Fanning Watson, Philadelphia's annalist. At the house now numbered 122, lived Mr. Watson from the year 1846 until his death in 1860, and here flourished under his care a scion from the "Treaty Tree" of Kensington, with several plants of ivy grown upon the William Penn estate in Ireland. A "Treaty Tree" from Godfrey farm on Mill Street, transplanted by Mr. Watson to front of his old home upon Main Street below Shoemaker's Lane, which there long flourished, has disappeared, and is now referred to only to show the pleasure of a mind which made a link to connect William Penn, and the inventor of the quadrant, with the writer of the "Declaration of Independence."

Proceeding northward upon Main Street, the next garden of prominence above Vernon, and much resembling it, was that of Samuel Harvey, Burgess of Germantown, whose place, named "Rose Cottage," is now covered by the Town Hall, and next above it was the old-fashioned box garden of Benjamin Engle, whose house was built in 1758.

About central Germantown, were many superior gardens which may only be referred to: The garden of Mrs. J. R. Sprague upon Woodbine Avenue; of Dr. Herman Burgin, upon West Chelten Avenue; of Lambert Lare and James Armstrong, upon East Haines Street; of Dr. Naaman H. Keyser, upon High Street; of Dr. I. Pearson Willits, upon West Walnut Lane; of B. Frank Kirk, upon East Washington Lane; of Charles Stacy Pancoast, Esq., upon East Johnson Street; of Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols, upon West Johnson Street; each being a gem of distinct and particular worth.

One of our quaintest gardens was that connected with the Morris-Littell house, situated at southeast corner of Main and High Streets. This many times has appeared in print, and has been referred to as the original Witt garden. The place has many interests, among them being its connection with the "Mystics of the Wissahickon," the discovery upon its grounds of the habits of the seventeen-year locusts by Miss Margaret H. Morris, and its occupancy by Miss Elizabeth Caddington Morris, a botanist, and the first woman elected to the Philadelphia Academy of the Natural Sciences. To this place came frequently Dr. William Darlington, a celebrated Chester County botanist, and author of Florula Cestrica. "Awbury" extending from Haines Street to Washington Lane, east of Chew Street, is one of the largest, one of the finest and on account of its family life, the most interesting of many home estates. It is like a great park, abounding with walks, drives, rare shrubs, trees, and richly stored gardens. It is the home of the Cope, Haines, Emlen, and Lewis families, all related by birth or marriage, and of all the experiments in so-named community life, to me "Awbury" is the most practical and beautiful.

It is an impossibility to properly present "Wyck" at this time. The place is so stocked with treasures, collective, scientific, and historic, so beautiful from whatever aspect viewed, that superficially I hesitate to present it at all, yet no one may refer to Germantown Gardens without including it, for it is the gem among many. I shall therefore try to give a glimpse of it, for the garden lies west of the house, and cannot be seen from the street, and as owing to its owner's precarious health, but few are admitted to it, its worth therefore is not widely known.

Upon March 3, 1908, Miss Haines wrote me: "I believe my old garden was laid out by my mother, Mrs. J. B. Haines, as I have a rough sketch with notes in her hand. I presume it was about 1821, or 22, as that was the time that my parents removed to 'Wyck' permanently, having previously only resided here in the summer. I remember when the asparagus bed, surrounded by currant bushes, still occupied the plot by the street, where the hedge now is. At that time, the paths were covered with tan from Engle's old tannery."

The garden is formal in design, but so cleverly covered by shrubbery, trellises, and resting places, that one may wander through its walks without making this discovery. The beds are box-bordered, and present a wealth of wildflowers, hardy plants in variety, roses of "long-ago," all flourishing happily together in great profusion. Miss Haines loved ferns, and along the patch nearest the home, where they might be viewed from the windows, many of our most beautiful native ferns show a luxuriance of growth, not often seen in their native habitats. Here are also several rare trees, and the memory of some that were, —memorials of Thomas Nuttall, of George Washington, and of Lafayette, for Reuben Haines, the father of Jane R. Haines, was active in the Philadelphia Academy of the Natural Science, and "Wyck" was a resort for his many friends, it being as well known to Thomas Nuttall, to Thomas Say, and to John James Audubon, as it was to Maria R. Audubon, the friend and guest of its late owner. Miss Haines once told me the old part of the house, that is the west end of the home, was built by her ancestor, Hans Milan, in the year 1690. The entrance to the original house was

from a road which ran from near present Price Street, to near present Johnson Street, following the east bank of what was "Honey-Run." The original survey of Germantown does not show this road, and it obviously was a "turnout" to avoid a poor part of the "Great-Road," for otherwise all between the points named, would have had to cross their neighbors' property to reach it. "Wyck" Mansion is not only beautiful, but I believe the oldest house in Germantown, and I further believe it the oldest house now standing in Philadelphia county.

At northeast corner of Main Street and Walnut Lane stands the "Button Mansion," which is now owned and occupied by Dr. Richard W. Deaver. Here continues in a flourishing condition the finest hedge of hemlock in Germantown, planted by John Button in the year 1840. Immediately north, upon west side of Main Street, opposite Pastorius Street, was the attractive garden of Sheriff, Enoch Taylor. The mansion is now occupied by the Girls' High School and it is of interest because here lived Dr. John D. Godman, when he wrote the well known and widely read "Rambles of a Naturalist." Martin Nixon and Col. Galloway C. Morris, near neighbors upon East Tulpehocken Street, and Charles W. Chandler, at High and Morton Streets, had each superior gardens. With Mr. Chandler, throughout the Centennial Exhibition lived General T. Saigo, Japan's Commissioner, a flower lover,—but we may not stop to enlarge.

The most noted exhibits in the garden of Col. Morris were a double flowering Japanese cherry, and a fine cedar of Lebanon. Keyser's garden, east side of Main Street, at corner of Tulpehocken Street has long been widely known for its old fashioned plants of rarity and superior culture. Plants not procurable at a commercial establishment usually might be found here, and I doubt whether any florist is able to show better results, than those procured by Miss Amelia Wood, the skillful grower. The Keyser garden is situated in the midst of an area which was overrun by the "Morus Multicaulus" craze of 1840. At that time, nearly every one in Germantown, led by Philip Physick, who had a few acres and a few spare dollars, planted mulberry trees for feeding silk worms, and it is a pity that so much energy and so much faith should have come to naught, for the enterprise in its incipiency was commendable, promoting home industry, and was truly patriotic. In my youth there were several fine gardens upon West Tulpehocken Street, among the most prominent being those of Thomas H. Shoemaker, Mrs. Lewis Taws, and Henry Howard Houston. At the northwest corner of Main Street and Washington Lane, is the Johnson Garden, and above it, adjoining is the Peter Keyser garden, but as Ellwood Johnson succeeded Peter Keyser, and as he and his sister, Elizabeth kept "open grounds," both gardens may be presented as one.

"Cliveden" as I first remember it appeared quite different from what it does now. Thirty-five years ago I imagine its grounds were much as they were at the close of the Revolutionary War, for the wall in front, with the lawns behind did not show their present finish, and the grades were altogether different. About the year 1874, Miller & Hayes were engaged to improve the place, and under the direction of Anthony Virtue, its "rough places were made smooth," shrubs and trees were planted, and in many respects its familiar picture was changed. "Cliveden," like nearly every old Germantown Home, had a hardy flower garden of the standard type, but it was better known by its spring, and by its great trees.

Mrs. Chew, February 27, 1904, wrote me, "I can only tell you of the plants of Cliveden that they were of the old-fashioned flowers of the time of 70, 80, and 100 years ago."

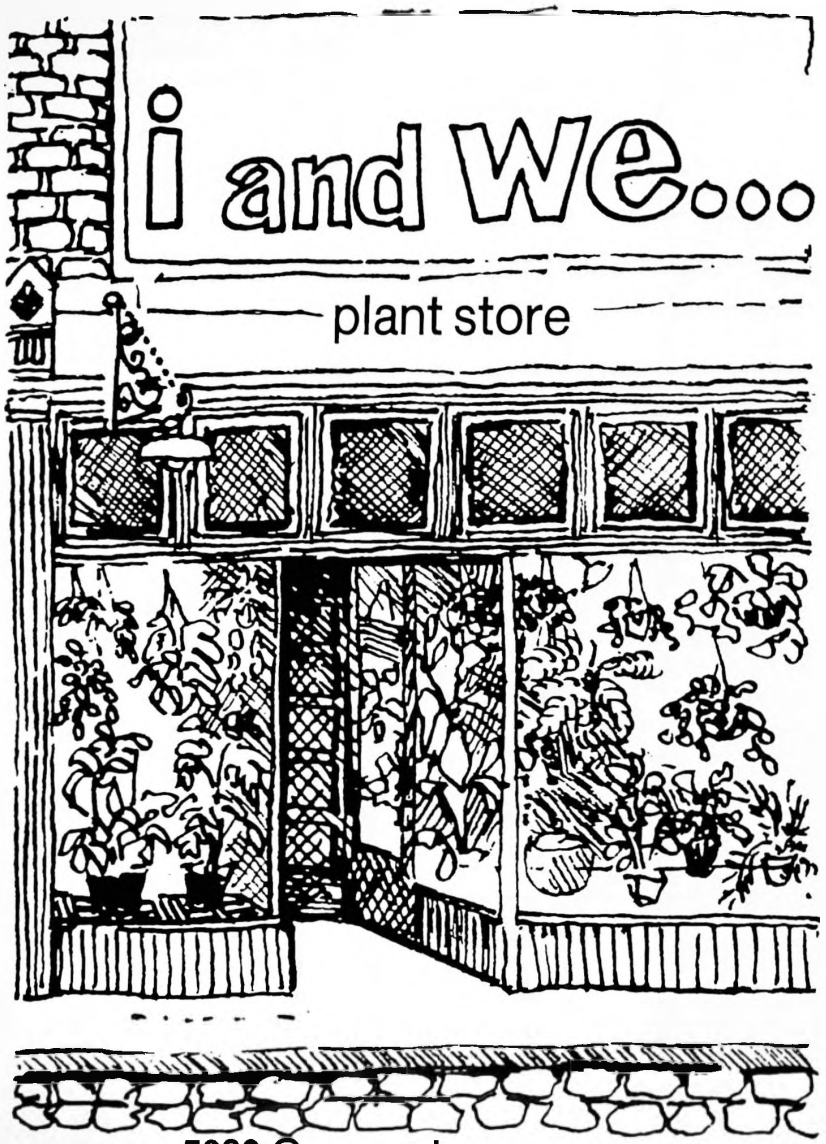
"The flowers in the garden were old-fashioned monthly roses, phlox, sweet williams, orange, mignonette, heliotrope, lemon-verbena, jasmine, and fruit trees, apples, pears, cherries and apricot, also box."

We need not further enlarge for the place stands to speak for itself. With "Cliveden," historic associations of course outtop every other interest, but every one viewing its dignity, its majestic trees, its beautiful grounds, must rejoice.

Opposite "Cliveden" and of later origin is "Upsala," which possesses a garden of the old-fashioned type. The place is owned and occupied by Miss Sallie Wheeler Johnson and not any who pass it can fail to be impressed by its stately dignity. With its green-bordered, flower-laden arbored walks about and near the mansion, unique shrubs and trees and wide and open grassy fields stretching far to the rear, Upsala, upon our busy Main Street, is a rural gem of never-failing beauty.

It was no part of our plan, nor at this time is it possible for us to consider our "new" gardens, many of which are of superior merit and beauty. I should like to present a chapter upon "wild-flower gardens," "Japanese gardens," and upon garden decorations, for among the latter the sun-dials of Germantown occupy a conspicuous and interesting place. Among many dials we may only refer to the historic ones of "Stenton" and of "Ivy Lodge," of "Spencer"—now decorating the garden of Charles F. Jenkins, president of the Site and Relic Society, part owner, and manager of "The Farm Journal," the greatest agricultural periodical of America, and those of Friends' meeting, and of William J. Gruhler's grounds, and that forming the crown of Dr. George Woodward's beautiful "grassie-lane."

As illustrative of Germantown's "new gardens" we may only name the hardy flower garden of Harrison S. Morris, situated upon York Road, the rose-garden of Harry C. Francis at "Upsal," the wild flower garden of Frank Miles Day, founder and editor of House and Garden," who owns and occupies the Gorgas Mansion upon Allen's Lane, Wissahickon; the unique garden of Dr. George Woodward, upon



Cresheim Creek, that of Randall Morgan, of Graver's Station; of Mrs. Howell of Ardmore Avenue; of Frederick W. Taylor, near Highland Station, and perhaps our most striking garden, that designed by Charles H. Miller, and improved by John T. Morris, its owner, located upon Hillcrest Avenue, and extending to Wissahickon Creek.

There are many, very many, gardens distributed throughout our territory worthy of "special mention," but as stated, and oft repeated, our limitations will not permit. We, however, trust that enough has been given to present Germantown as a Garden Home, a place helpful to happiness, a goodly place to dwell in, a place fitted to lift the "downhearted," help view with reverence the divinity expressed in the Creator's manifold beauties, so that all may thankfully appreciate their abounding blessings. I often wonder how many who pass up and down our Main Street realize what a wonderful street it is, that is—apart from its historic associations? While the trees and gardens have almcst disappeared from the old streets of Philadelphia, our own central avenue from "Turnpike Bridge" to "Mt. St. Joseph's," is brightened by gardens of bloom, and throughout its length it is almost uninterruptedly paralleled by stalwart trees of refreshing vigor, a delight to look upon.

The oldest newspaper known by name was the German Frankfurter Zeitung, published in 1615.

"American Messenger," the first Almanac, was printed in America in 1685.

CH 7-0945, CH 7-5898

Wm. A. Kilian Hardware Co.

House Furnishings • Finnaren & Haley Paints

Garden Supplies • Unpainted Furniture

8450 GERMANTOWN AVE.

CHESTNUT HILL, PHILA., PA. 19118

CH 8-1692

MARTIN F. CONNOR CO.

FUEL OIL • HEATING

AIR CONDITIONING

1005 E. Willow Grove Avenue

Philadelphia, Pa. 19118

The Birds of Germantown

FLORENCE C. GRISCOM

IMPRESSIVE is the list of firms who have given long years of faithful service, as advertised in THE GERMANTOWNE CRIER, yet it will have to be admitted that the eldest of these are "mere infants in arms" compared to the varied branches of the "old-established firm" of feathered folk, who were here "in the beginning," and who have given of their honesty and integrity through all the years since Germantown was founded!

Back in those early days, Whittier's "Pennsylvania Pilgrim," Francis Daniel Pastorius, was

"Glad even to tears" when "he heard the robin sing
His song of welcome to the Western Spring,—
And Bluebird, borrowing from the sky his wing."

Those were the days when along streets where apple and peach trees bloomed,

"Above each rustic porch the humming bird
Tried with light bill that scarce a petal stirred,
The Old World Flowers to virgin soil transferred."

Even in the quiet of the Quaker Meeting,—

"There, thro' the gathered stillness multiplied
And made intense, by sympathy, outside
The sparrow sang, and the gold-robin cried,
A-swing upon his elm."

Pastorius, the eager, searching scholar, the conscientious, burdened statesman, the consistent, sorely-tried Quaker, the loyal friend and helper,—found strength to "carry on" steadfastly and true, through his devoted study of nature and of nature's ways.

Thus, in the midst of war, the plague, the demands of the growing colony, the criticisms of his fellows, even the misunderstandings of his friends,—

"Still all attuned to Nature's melodies,
He loved the bird's song in his dooryard trees,
And the low hum of home-returning bees."

And so was enabled to feel, through all the daily stress and strain, "the peace of Nature, And of God."

All down the years since those early days, the birds of Germantown have also "stood four-square" to their part in keeping the area a safe, comfortable, and withal, a beautiful place for human folk.

Now and again a lack of foresight on the part of Germantowners themselves has made it very difficult for the bird life to carry on their ever-needed services. At times this human blindness to the natural beauty and charm and wealth of Germantown wild bird life has compelled some of the most useful members of the feathered firm to permanently leave the area!

Our own Bob-White Quail find little safe refuge within the limits of the town; no adequate acreage for feeding or nesting has been left them; no safe "avenue of approach" to even Carpenter's Woods, a natural haven!

And the old-time dense shelters edging the Wissahickon, once comparatively free of prowlers, are now constantly being intruded upon by both four- and two-footed enemies!

Whippoorwills, still "heard amid the Wissahickon hills," no longer fling their challenge from the arm of a rustic bench in some secluded, woodsy homeland in the "towne" itself.

Nor can the long-billed Woodcock, or his "first cousin" Wilson's Snipe, probe deep in the mud around patches of marsh within the limits of old-time "estates." To find their pencil-like diggings we must needs wander along the muddy banks of Wissahickon streams.

Even the "gold-robin"—the "hang-bird"—the flaming orange and black Baltimore Oriole, is hard put to find a suitable branch to which to attach that old-style "reticule" of a nest, where it may "sway with every wind that blows."

The Cardinal Grosbeak, that handsome "gentleman of the old school," who mates for life, being devoted to home and wife and children, delights in settling in some tangled corner near human folks. Too often he meets with cruel thoughtlessness on the part of these same folk, to the beauty and charm of whose home-surroundings he and his add color and grace and "continuous service" that no money can buy!

And the Bluebird, so courteous to his little wife, telling her how beautifully she is fashioning the precious home, with his clear "excellent! excellent!" as he examines her work. Where are they? Are there still old apple and peach and plum trees where a hollow branch might prove to be the ideal location for a cosy home for what Louis Untermeyer calls, "those bits of sky let loose"—"those harbingers of Spring" with "bodies lightly blueberry-dusted'?' The soft, clear "purity, purity" of their ever-lovely song would help to lessen the grating sounds of constant traffic along the streets of Germantown!

There are many Germantown homes where thought is given to the needs of the wild birds. Food, to eke out the ever-dwindling natural cafeterias in field and

woodland; water for drinking and bathing in lieu of the pure streams that used to meander thro' the "towne"; bits of tangle in a shrubby corner, and a fair degree of needed protection from roaming cats and thoughtless boys with "B.B." guns!

These simple ways, multiplied throughout the length and breadth of Germantown would make possible the presence of a goodly number of the "feathered gardeners and orchardists" who also have been "loyally trying to serve"!

Those wild birds that are able to carry on in the artificial surroundings prevalent in so much of the Germantown of today, hint at the host of such "pioneers" that might still find "safe haven" he were real consideration given to their welfare.

Germantown citizens might well spend earnest thought and honest effort in order to make possible a "return of the Birds"!

Think of the "descendants of those original settlers" among "the feathered tribes" who might be induced to dwell nearby and ply their individual "trades" as faithfully as do the banks and the various stores in Germantown! (The wild birds never "close doors for a holiday"!)

One member of the Thrush family that is found "here, there and (almost) everywhere" seems to prefer to home near human homes,—using a nearby crotch, a shelf or some projection as the foundation for a nest. Robin Redbreast is able to hold his own against odds rather well.

Others of the Thrush tribe are often found along the edges of town,—in the remnants of tangled hedgerows, in woodsy undergrowth where nests can be reasonably safe and wild berries will be near.

Brown Thrasher, Catbird and Wren, representing the "mocker and scolder" branch of this "age-old firm" of wild life, rejoice in some thick cluster of bush and vine—especially if such tangle be set with briers and thorns; and no merchant appealing to an "exacting clientele" can compare with those songsters in advertising their "stock in trade."

Recent reports of the wide-spread sale in the open markets in Mexico, of Robins, Thrushes, Thrashers, Catbirds, etc.,—birds protected by the Migratory Bird Law—if allowed to continue, will inevitably result in a noticeable shortage there, and here, of these valuable allies of ours!

That their numbers are being thus thoughtlessly reduced in their southern winter haven, together with the obvious fact that they are finding it increasingly difficult to reproduce in adequate numbers in their northern nesting area, can have but one final ending!

We are told by those who know that in the past fifty years forty species of wild life, birds and mammala, have become extinct, due entirely to human carelessness!

The "destruction of habitat" is the biggest factor in this costly reduction of our valuable natural resources.

The present rate of cutting trees, uprooting bushes, burning grass, in order to erect row after row of human dwellings, with scarce room for a Robin to build a home, and no place for even a Wren to find a knothole for a cosy nursery, all means less and less opportunity for this "old-established firm" to carry on! And all Germantown loses out through this lack of "building sites."

Awbury, once a happy haven where bird-lovers could be sure of seeing and hearing a wealth of wild bird life no longer provides an adequate number of safe nooks and corners and hiding-places;—too many humans are "here, there and everywhere"!

Some years ago, a thrill that tingled through the long hours of busy days came to Awbury folk and some friends, in catching a glimpse of a White-crowned Sparrow in the naturally tangled midst of what was then an enclosed bit of marshy pond near Washington Lane, and in hearing the clear, ringing song! There is no privacy for wild life there now.

Why do we not "Stop-Look-Listen," as we are ever urged to do at a dangerous crossing? We can scarce expect Nature and Nature's God to go on forever without our honest, active co-operation!

Already the northward surge of wild birds has brought to the Germantown area a number of "lineal descendants of the original settlers of Germantowne." Fox Sparrow, with ruddy tail, brown spotted vest, and characteristic of scratching simultaneously with both feet, in order to toss away the leaves under which may be hiding the silent enemy of some rare plant, prized as highly by today's garden lover as was the "century-blooming aloe" of Anna Pastorius' day!

While this, the largest of the Sparrow tribe, rarely nests here, we owe him a debt of gratitude for his industry and the "vim and vigor" of his food-habits, as well as for the warmth of his costume, and the clear, loud, melodious whistle!

Another fair-sized migrant which Dr. Frank Chapman said wears "a black swallow-tail coat, a Robin's red vest with a white shirt-front, has ruby eyes, scratches with both feet as does the Fox Sparrow, without holding on to anything, calls his own name, 'Chewink, Towhee' and often tells the listener to 'drink your tea!'" He and his demure mate, wearing a tan jacket, like to make their home rather low in a tangle of bushes where they can feel reasonably safe from marauders.

To some people the Quaker-dressed Mourning Dove is not a desirable near-neighbor,—the oft-repeated "cooing" becoming annoying to some ears. Almost any sound, continuously repeated, can become distasteful! But when we disabuse our minds of a bit of biased prejudice, which we may have heard so often it seems real, and do a little looking and thinking for ourselves, the fact becomes evident that the cooing is simply his way of telling the coy little lady that

he loves her, and that the only indication of "mourning" is in the spelling of the name!

The fact that doves are inveterate weed-seed eaters, even feeding their babies on a pre-digested weed-seed diet, ought to open our eyes to the quiet beauty of the costume—the quaint similarity of their walk and ours—the faithfulness of the one to the other—and the united devotion to the welfare of the "twins" in the shallow nest. They often find too few protected branches on which to criscross the few twigs, and they use the rain-spouting, with tragic results!

Cresheim Valley's "Lake Surprise," at the foot of Emlen Street—once a bit of great charm and opportunity for both wild life and humans, has been allowed to degenerate into an eyesore and a health-menace. No wild life can be blamed for this! Nor can wild life restore this spot to its original beauty—a worthwhile "restoration" that could be wrought with but comparatively little outlay.

Careless hands, governed by thoughtless heads, work considerable wreckage here and in other sections in and around Germantown where Nature is trying to hold on!

The feathered folk already mentioned are but a handful of those whose natural inclination would be to linger in Germantown and "ply their trade" of holding in check the vast hordes of insect pests with which gardeners and orchardists everywhere have to contend.

One of the most efficient conservationists among birds is the widely known Song Sparrow, who besides destroying countless bugs and beetles, spiders and slugs, leaves a trail of cheer and sweetness everywhere he goes! The low barberry hedge close by the back door, can conceal the beautifully-fashioned nest wherein takes place the never-ending mystery of the egg! But the ever-present menace of the cat, because of some human carelessness, so often makes "a reign of terror" where could so easily be "peace and plenty"!

The Warblers—pari-colored fluffs of animated feathers—seem utterly carefree as they flit lightly here and there. All the while they are gleaning the "wee beasties" that are often unseen by human eyes, that can readily wreck a garden in one season.

Many of these dainty, fluttering atoms are just passing through on the way to the Poconos and "places north." But quite a number of Black and White Creeping, Yellow, Myrtle, Redstart, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, and others dwell near where there were building sites suitable for their stay.

The charm of the finest gardens in Germantown would be enhanced by the mere presence of these "winged blossoms"! and their destruction of aphids alone would more than compensate for any expense incurred in making them feel safe and at home!

Well may the people of Germantown be proud of the historical wealth of their community. And fine spirit is shown in the preservation of the quaint landmarks of the early days! But where is the abundant wealth of natural resources with which the "old towne" was blessed?

"These are the happy ones!
Their breath is song—their element is faith.
Untouched by all the transient oddities
They do not traffic in commodities.
They neither kill for sport, nor wear
A wreath of insects in their hair.
Their flight does not pollute the air:
Their mornings have no yesterdays,
Who, in themselves, have infinite ways
Of turning petulance to praise—
Who never trick themselves with words!—
Gratefully I return to Birds!"

Reprinted from June, 1950 issue of The Germantowne Crier.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Germantown Historical Society

Privileges of membership include attendance at all lectures, tours, and other functions sponsored by the Society.

It is the Society's aim, in conjunction with other civic groups, to preserve and protect the existing evidence of Germantown's great past. Interested persons may obtain further information by writing to the Chairman of the Membership Committee.

Mrs. James S. Bishop
5214 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

We welcome new members and cordially invite your interest and support. We look forward to hearing from you **and** your friends.

Dues are as follows:

Life	$150.00
Annual	10.00
Sustaining	25.00
Family	12.50
Student, under 21 years	3.00
Germantown Historical Society combined with Maxwell Mansion	15.00

"The Germantowne Crier" is sent regularly to all members. Subscriptions may be entered by non-members for $2.00 a year. Checks should be made to the Society or direct to the "Crier".

LEEDOM AND WISSLER
Since 1895
PRESCRIPTIONS
Chelten and Pulaski Avenues
GErmantown 8-1340
FREE MOTOR DELIVERY

SOME OF THE WILD FLOWERS
FOUND IN GERMANTOWN



May Apple, Wild Mandrake



Thistle



Blue Bottles

Publications of the Germantown Historical Society

Magazine

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

Nearly all of the past numbers of the CRIER are currently available. An assortment of available back issues may be had for $12.50 plus mailing charges.

Individual copies of the CRIER can be obtained for 50¢ each.

WASHINGTON VISITS GERMANTOWN 1.50

Pamphlets

BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN ..... 25¢

EARLY GERMANTOWN *by* Judge Harold D. Saylor 25¢

GUIDEBOOK TO HISTORIC GERMANTOWN *by* Charles F. Jenkins 3.00

No. 2—EARLY TRANSPORTATION TO GERMANTOWN *by* Naaman H. Keyser, D.D.S.; THE CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE *by* Romaine Keyser. Illustrated. 36 pages. ..... 50¢

No. 3—DRAMATIC FEATURES OF PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY *by* Hampton L. Carson. Map. 22 pages. 25¢

No. 4—GRUMBLETHORPE *by* Edwin C. Jellet; POMONA GROVE *by* Mary W. Shoemaker; NOTES ON POMONA *by* Edwin C. Jellet. Three full-page illustrations. 38 pages. ..... 50¢

No. 5—THE EARLY PHYSICIANS OF GERMANTOWN *by* I. Pearson Willits, M.D. 18 pages. ..... 25¢

No. 6—TRAVELS NEAR HOME *by* Harrison E. Morris ..... 25¢

No. 7—THE CRICKET GROUNDS OF GERMANTOWN *by* George M. Newhall. Map and 12 full-page illustrations, 24 pages. ..... 25¢

No. 9—THE ARTISTS OF GERMANTOWN *by* Herbert Welsh ..... 25¢

No. II-3—SOME ACCOUNT OF WYCK AND ITS OWNERS *by* Caspar Wistar Haines. Ten full-page illustrations. 26 pages. ..... 25¢

No. II-4—NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO GERMANTOWN, 1721-1807. 32 pages. ..... 50¢

No. II-7—THE GREAT ROAD THROUGH GERMANTOWN; CONRAD WEISER'S INDIAN FRIENDS AND THE COAL LANDS *by* George Wheeler; MILESTONES AND OTHER LANDMARKS *by* Anthony M. Hance. ..... 50¢

Post Cards

An assortment of ten color post cards featuring views of historic buildings in Germantown is available for 1.00.

Orders for the above publications may be sent to:

GERMANTOWNE CRIER
5208 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

Checks should be made payable to the Germantown Historical Society. On orders for pamphlets, books, post cards, and individual copies of the CRIER, ADD 50¢ TO COVER POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

Bonnin & Morris—1770-1772

By Jean C. Woodruff

THOUGH Tucker Porcelain (Philadelphia 1825–1838) is considered probably the first American Porcelain, there were other factories established in America prior to their manufactory. New York and New Jersey had potteries and in Southwark, Philadelphia, a factory was established in 1770.

George Anthony Morris and Goussé Bonnin were the founders of the Philadelphia works, built at Front and what is now Washington Avenue in the part of Philadelphia then known as Southwark. As far as can be determined neither man had ever had any experience in the making of ceramics. George Morris was born sometime between 1742 and 1745 in Philadelphia. His was a prominent family in this city. Morris' interest in the works is supposed to have been more or less on the financial side. He left Philadelphia for North Carolina in 1771 and died there in 1773.

Goussé Bonnin was the grandson of a Huguenot refugee who signed an indenture with Sir Mattais Vincent in 1686 in return for certain lands in Pennsylvania. There is no record of his ever living in this State but he was a well known surgeon in Antigua. His son, Henry, was a successful merchant there. Three children were born to Henry in Antigua. Goussé, the only one about whom we are concerned, was born in 1741 and educated at Eton. He seemed to have led a life of leisure since there are no scholastic records of further education or apprenticeships available. He married well and with his family arrived in America from England in August of 1768.

He evidently made his home in Philadelphia for in July 1769, he applied for and was given a patent for "black lead crucibles". These were made from "a species of clay, hitherto discovered only near the City of Philadelphia". The patent application at least showed interest in ceramics since both the crucibles and porcelain demanded knowledge of clays and construction of and usage of high firing kilns. It was shortly after this he formed his partnership with George Morris for the manufacture of "American China".

The land was applied for and completed in December 1796. This was ¼ of an acre on the West side of Front Street and 120 feet north of Prime Street (or Wicacoa Lane as it is generally known). This was in Southwark, Philadelphia and had good access to the Delaware River. Morris also owned other land in this vicinity and rented half of it to Bonnin.

The first public announcement of the manufactory appeared in the Pennsylvania Chronicle claiming that china as good as that manufactured in Bow (the first listed porcelain factory in England but past its heyday at this time. Just why he chose Bow is not known), could be made in the colonies, and that the clays were as good. Some of these clays were brought from the State of Delaware somewhere near Wilmington and mixed with calcined bones (burned and pulverized animal bones) to make the porcelain.

Goussé Bonnin returned to England shortly to raise money for the factory and borrowed 280 pounds while there, 200 on his return to Philadelphia and 520 pounds shortly thereafter. It is thought his trip was also to induce workers to come to the factory in Philadelphia. It was not likely that such workmen could be found in this city. They also advertised in a Charleston, South Carolina paper hoping to induce workmen there to leave a cream-wear factory which had been established near that city. This was in 1770. The workers here had come from the factories in Staffordshire, England. The visit to England, however, produced some results as it was announced in a Philadelphia paper that nine Master Workers had arrived for the porcelain factory in this city.

In July of 1770 the factory was completed. It is said to have had "3 kilns, 2 furnaces, 2 mills, 2 clay vaults, cistern, engines and treading room". These were situated on a new Street which had been laid out by Bonnin and Morris and named China Street. This name recently changed to Alter Street. It was between Front and Second Street at Washington Avenue.

The factory advertised for shank and knuckle bones, probably with the intention of making soft-paste porcelain or bone china in the tradition of Bow.

According to Josiah Wedgwood, Bonnin & Morris offered wages to twice the amount he paid his workmen. Also in a talk which Josiah Wedgwood gave, he made dire predictions as to what would happen after they arrived in America, since it had happened in Charleston, S. C.—unpaid salaries, debtors prison and then shifting for themselves in a new country.

Bonnin & Morris advertised quite an assortment of chinaware and had orders from as far away as Albany, N. Y. even though these were not promptly filled according to letters which have been found. The first ware was immediately bought up and generally admired.

A fine decoration was needed for their wares if they were to compete with Dutch Delft, China Export porcelain and Staffordshire blue and white. The first blue and white ware made by Bonnin & Morris was advertised in September 1771. Unfortunately no complete sets of this are known to have survived.

Toward the end of 1771 they seem to have become aware of the financial difficulties facing them in the production of the porcelain. At this time there was some help from Bonnin's father. English ware and more especially Wedgwood's Creamware and Staffordshire could be bought for less and the importation agreement had been terminated, so perhaps people wondered if it was worthwhile just for the sake of local pride and industry to purchase American-made china.

Bonnin & Morris appealed to the State Legislature for a Provincial loan, but were refused. They also ran a lottery but this was not enough. It is possible that Bonnin decided to close down the factory rather than risk bankruptcy. The last advertisement for the property was in October, 1774. Goussé Bonnin returned to England in 1773.

In the 1967 program for the University of Pennsylvania Antiques Show a short history of the Bonnin & Morris venture was written by Graham Hood. Challenged by the broken fruit basket at the Philadelphia Art Museum, attributed to this firm by James Mease in a letter written in 1841, Mr. Hood questioned the attribution. The marking is an underglazed "P" and the only mention of a mark, Jan. 1771, specified that the wares would be marked with an "S". It may have been a printer's mistake but was published as an "S" in three Pennsylvania papers.

Although the china was thought to be delft or earthenware a test made for Mr. Hood by the British Museum of the Philadelphia fruit basket and one owned by Yale Museum and just newly attributed, were found to be bone-ash soft-paste porcelain. To make the findings clearer and to try to authenticate Bonnin & Morris porcelain, Mr. Hood prevailed upon Dr. John L. Cotter, of the National Park Service in Philadelphia to take his summer class of 1967 to the factory site. Here they performed a series of tests. The analysis confirmed that they were soft paste porcelain. The owner of the lot gave permission for a dig on his property. The Morris family provided gifts in memory of James Rawle, II and the Robert L. McNeil Foundation gave funds. Two University of Penna. students agreed to help. The existence of the factory appeared to be proven by the number of saggers (coarse clay pans in which the unfired porcelain is placed in the kilns). There were also found numbers of pieces or as they are called "shards" which matched the Museum fruit bowl and other known sauce bowls, etc.

There are only approximately 7 or 8 pieces known to have survived, but perhaps there are more thought by the owners, because of the lack of marks, to be Bow or other English manufacture. They did advertise some in polychrome decoration but so far none has been found.

Beside writing the piece in the Program, Graham Hood has written an excellent book "Bonnin and Morris of Philadelphia". This was published in 1972 for the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, Virginia. Slides of the dig and of the "shards" with comparisons with the known pieces are in the Philadelphia Museum of Art Slide Library.

Perhaps you are the owner of a piece of Bonnin & Morris porcelain and don't know it!!! TAKE A LOOK!!!

IDENTIFICATION OF "TOUR" PICTURES ON PAGE 76

1. **Sleeping Lion at entrance to Conyngham-Hacker House.**
   GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMPLEX
   5208 5226 Germantown Avenue
   Five buildings make up complex. All five date from 1740 1772. Baynton House, which houses the library; the Conyngham-Hacker House contains an extensive collection of furniture, china, documents and craft items; the Howell House is the Toy and Quilt Museum; the Endt House, scene of the First Unity Conference of German Protestant Sects; the Bechtel House is used for residential and storage purposes.

2. **Duncan Terry etched-glass window in church.**
   TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—
   5300 Germantown Avenue
   Johannes Bleeckers was the original grantee of this property in 1683. The oldest part of the house was built in 1723 by Herman Thunen. The part of the house along Germantown Avenue was built by Christopher Saur the 2nd about 1755. In 1772-1773 in the cellar of this house was cast the first printing type in America. The first bible in America was printed by Christopher Saur in German.

3. **Garden of Mehl House.**
   MEHL HOUSE—GERMANTOWN THEATRE GUILD—
   4821 Germantown Avenue—Rear of 4821
   This house was built in 1744 by the Mehl family and remained in the Mehl family until shortly before the Minehart family acquired it 59 years ago. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lounsbery. The Playhouse was formerly the barn to the Mehl House.

4. **Entrance to Grumblethorpe.**
   GRUMBLETHORPE—5267 Germantown Avenue
   John Wister, a Philadelphia merchant, built this house as a summer home in 1744. This is considered one of the most important houses in Germantown, not only because of the prominence of the Wister family but also because it represents the final period in the development of the domestic architecture native to Germantown.

5. **Cellar entrance at Stenton.**
   STENTON—18th and Courtland Streets
   Stenton was erected by James Logan about 1728. It was built on the site of an Indian encampment. Three generations of his family lived there. During the Revolution both Washington and Howe made Stenton their headquarters for short periods of time. The present estate consists of the historic dwelling and a colonial Park.

6. **Grave site—Lower Burial Ground—belongs to family that founded PSFS.**
   LOWER BURIAL GROUND
   Germantown Avenue and Logan Street
   Graves of the early settlers are found here. The oldest stone in the graveyard is that of Joseph Coulston, 1708. The yard was presented to the borough by Jan Streepers in 1693.

Girard Bank.

Working with the good sports in Philadelphia.



KOELLE GREENWOOD CO.

Phila's Oldest Ford Dealer

SALES—SERVICE—LEASING

161 W. Chelten Ave.

Germantown GE 8-1025

GE 8-5111
GE 8-5172

PROMPT DELIVERY
ICE—Cubes and Cakes

Gillespie BEER DISTRIBUTOR

All Brands

ED. LANIGAN, JR.
Proprietor

5231 GERMANTOWN AVE.
(at Bringhurst Street)

Writing insurance — and history — since 1843

GERMANTOWN INSURANCE COMPANY

now writes LIFE INSURANCE thru its subsidiary

GERMANTOWN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Germantown Market Square
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

STATON'S
Galleries

ART
FRAMING
RESTORATION
SINCE 1893

5321 Germantown Ave.
Germantown, Pa. 19144
GE 8-6416

Economy Plumbing and Heating Supply Co., Inc.

Wholesale Distributors

Standard Sanitary • American Radiator
Kohler of Kohler
Pipes • Valves • Fittings • Boilers
Radiators & Oil Burner Supplies

5245-47 Germantown Avenue
Phone: VIctor 8-5600 Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

from Abacus to Zither
CREATIVE TOYS
From Every Nation
For City Fun
Or On Vacation
Doll House Furniture
Our Specialty

Fireside
toys books games
186 E. Evergreen Ave. CH 8-3122
8523 Germantown Ave. CH 2-1442

Advertisers Index

Alden Park 68
Allen's 70
Boardman-Hamilton Co. 68
Connor Co., Martin F. 86
Cunningham Piano Co. 70
Economy Plumbing 94
Fidelity Bank, The 66
Fireside Toys 94
First Pennsylvania Co. 95
Germantown Insurance Co. 93
Germantown Savings Bank ..... *Back Cover*
Gillespie Beer Distributor 93
Girard Bank 93
Groben's Sea Food 75
Hamilton-Reliance Savings Ass'n 95
I and We Plant Store 86
Ivy Hill Cemetery 68
Kane and Brown 66
Kilian Hdw., Wm. A. 86
Kirk and Nice 72
Koelle Greenwood Co. 93
Leedom & Wissler 89
Liberty Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n 70
Provident National Bank 67
Robertson & Sons, Inc., Geo. 70
Rose Electric Supply Co. 66
Schuck Electric 67
Smith, Inc., J. and R. 67
Staton's Galleries 94
St. Martin's Coal Co., Inc. 68
Winder, J. Russell 66
WFLN 67

First Pennsylvania Bank

The "THANK-YOU" Bank

Chel-Wayne Office
5536 Wayne Avenue

Germantown Office
16 West Chelten Avenue

Mount Airy Office
6740 Germantown Avenue

The First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

HAMILTON-RELIANCE SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

5¼% per annum on passbook savings

5¾% per annum on special passbook savings

7½% Certificates available —
4 years maturity, $1,000 minimum

ALL ACCOUNTS INSURED TO $20,000

5519 Germantown Ave. (on Market Square)
6782 Germantown Ave.

Main Office: Johnson Highway & Markley Street
Norristown, Pa. 19401

Germantown Historical Society
5214 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144
PERMIT No. 2746

SAVINGS
is our middle name!

OFFICES THROUGHOUT
PHILADELPHIA
& SUBURBS,
ALLENTOWN,
BETHLEHEM,
PHOENIXVILLE,
QUAKERTOWN,
READING

GSB®
GERMANTOWN
SAVINGS BANK

MEMBER FDIC