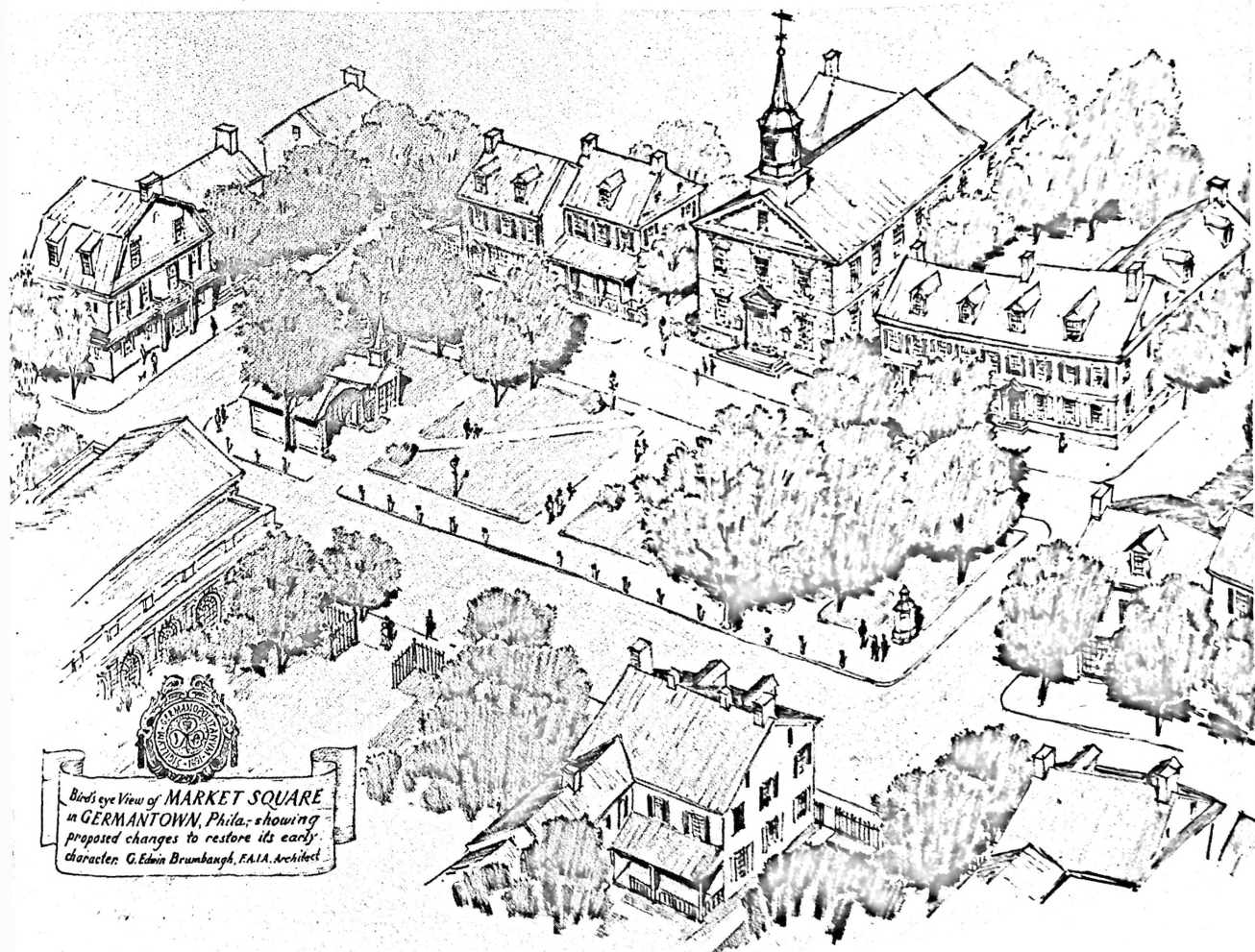


GERMANTOWNE *CR*IER



Bird's eye View of MARKET SQUARE
in GERMANTOWN, Phila., showing
proposed changes to restore its early
character. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A. Architect

Published Quarterly

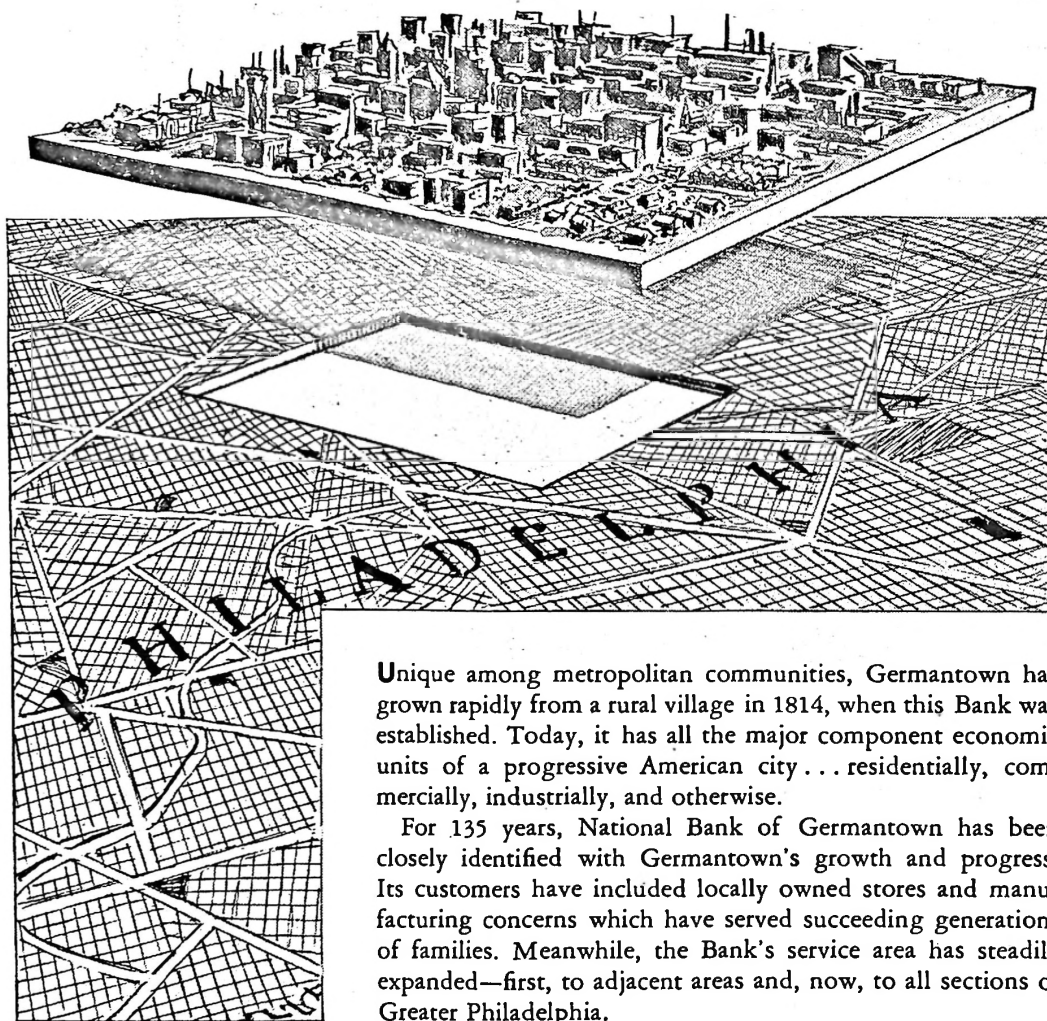
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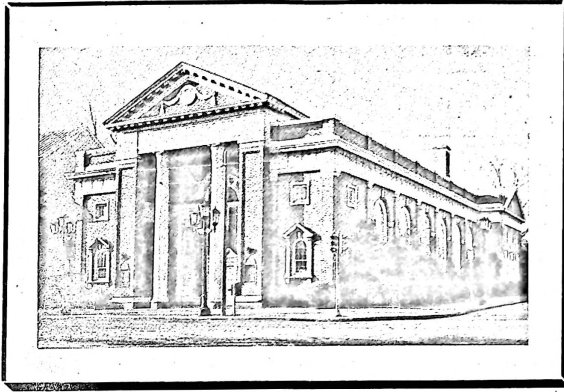
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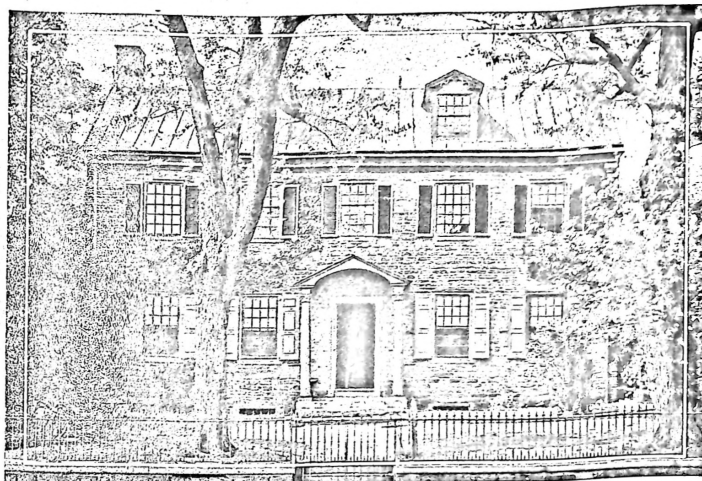
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The President's Message

LEIGHTON P. STRADLEY

AS a sequel to our announcement in the first two issues of the CRIER, we are happy to report that G. Edwin Brumbaugh, eminent architect, has submitted his interesting drawing, shown on our cover page, in the form of a bird's-eye view of Market Square, Germantown, with changes proposed for the restoration of the early character of that historic spot.

The west side of the square is complete and shows three original Colonial buildings. At 5430 Germantown Avenue is the Colonial home of Dr. James W. Wister, well-known resident of Germantown and a member of the Board of Managers of our Society. This house needs little or no restoration. The attractive and graceful building at 5434 Germantown Avenue will be the new home of the Northern Liberties Federal Savings & Loan Association. It is now being restored under the direction of George Clarence Johnson, a vice-president of our Society, and will be ready for occupancy in the fall. Restoration of the Morris House, the beautiful and historic house at 5442 Germantown Avenue recently presented to the Federal Government as a national shrine, is also in progress and will be complete in October.

In connection with the Morris House, the Germantown Historical Society has signed a co-operative agreement with the Department of the Interior and will open the house to the public this fall. To assure maintenance costs, a small admission fee will be charged. It is planned to have hostesses in attendance to conduct visitors through the building. The house is to be authentically furnished through loans of appropriate pieces from the Morris family and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

It is reported that the two houses between the

Morris House and the home of the Saving Fund Society of Germantown and its vicinity are to be razed; the present magnificent bank building will contribute much to the desired Colonial atmosphere of the square. At the north end of the square, when arrangements can be made to make the space available, it is planned to replace the present structure with a reproduction on the order of the Delaplaine House, which originally stood there. It is hoped that the Reliance Savings & Loan Association, located on the east side of the square will alter the facade of its building so as to carry out the general plan of the restoration. And, though the Market Square Church and rectory have not yet indicated whether they will co-operate in the restoration of the square, it is hoped that some mutually agreeable plan can be worked out with them in the future.

The Harkness House, now owned by the Germantown Fire Insurance Company is to be completely restored; a very large and important part of the restoration is therefore assured.

An estate owns the structure on the south side of the square, and that estate has not yet been heard from. It would appear, however, that this building could be restored at comparatively small expense and so complete the picture. When the restoration is complete, Market Square should attract national attention as a spot of great historical interest.

For assistance in our work and plans so far, we are deeply indebted to Mr. Brumbaugh and Dr. Francis S. Ronalds, co-ordinating superintendent for the National Park Service. We appreciate their many courtesies and interest in setting up our plan and helping us win Germantown her merited place as a mecca for tourists and the historically-minded throughout the nation.

GERMANTOWNE CRIER



VOLUME I

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James Logan of Stenton

CHARLES F. JENKINS

THE public services of James Logan, his lifelong devotion to William Penn and the family of the Proprietor, his considerable business ability, his political and governmental activities, his talents and learning have been told many times and are more or less familiar. For many years, he was undoubtedly the most distinguished resident of Germantown, and his home, so well preserved and fittingly furnished, is an acceptable monument to his memory.

The troubles of the Revolution of 1688 in Ireland and the landing in that country of William, Prince of Orange, interrupted the career of a young linen draper in Dublin, who retreated to the shelter of his parents' home in Lurgan, a little town some twenty miles northwest of Belfast. Patrick Logan, the father, was a Scotchman from Stenton, in East Lothian, Scotland, who had been educated for the ministry at the University of Edinburgh. He had married Isabella Hume, of a family with somewhat more social distinction than his own, and both had become members of the Society of Friends. They emigrated to Ireland, settling at Lurgan in the summer of 1674. It was thus, almost by accident, that James Logan was born an Irishman.

Patrick Logan had now become a teacher, so it was at his father's school that young James gained proficiency in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew before he was thirteen years old. As a boy of fourteen, he was sent to learn the linen trade in Dublin. From here the disorder of the times drove him back to his father's home. In the spring of 1689, the family left Ireland and went to Edinburgh and, later, to London. Here they were in some financial straits, and members of the Society of Friends, of one of the London Meetings, came to their assistance. It was ascertained that the Friends' school at Bristol, England, was in need of a master, and Patrick Logan, who was described as a "good scholar and apt teacher," was given the position. But he did not get on well with the parents

of his children and, on the excuse of going to bring his wife over to Bristol, he returned permanently to Lurgan, leaving his son James, then about 19, to succeed him as master of the school.

By this time, the young schoolmaster had perfected himself in mathematics, French, and Italian and had gained some knowledge of Spanish. This study and training was the ground work of Logan's considerable classical learning, which, he states in his autobiography, cost him not a single penny, with the exception of some tutoring in French to acquire the proper pronunciation.

James Logan, however, was not satisfied with the career of schoolmaster and determined to become a merchant, planning to settle in Jamaica. On visiting his parents in Ireland, he found that his mother was so averse to his going to the West Indies that she said she would "rather see him dead." On this account, he gave up the plan and engaged in trade between Dublin and Bristol. While thus engaged, he attracted the attention of William Penn, then actively preparing for his second visit to Pennsylvania, who invited him to become his secretary. This offer Logan submitted to his friends, many of whom advised him not to accept it; but deciding to do so, he sailed with Penn to America on the *Canterbury* in September of 1699.

Logan was then twenty-five years of age, unmarried, but apparently not averse to obtaining a wife. Indeed, his several love affairs are matters of public record. The Friends Meeting at Bristol, England, in granting a certificate of removal to one Mary Watts, in 1696, used this expression in their records: "Mary Watts, daughter of Barbara Blaugdon, is going to Pennsylvania. There has been some talk of her and James Logan." But nothing came of the "talk."

On the *Canterbury* with Penn, on this his second visit to Pennsylvania, was his wife Hannah, soon after landing to become the mother of John Penn, the



Front Door, Stenton Mansion, 18th and Courtland Streets, Philadelphia

American, the only one of Penn's children to be born in Pennsylvania. Also accompanying them was Laetitia Penn, commonly called Tisha, the only daughter by William Penn's first wife.

In the fall of 1709, Logan visited Europe and did not return until the spring of 1712.

Landing from the *Canterbury* in the early winter of 1699, Penn and Logan plunged immediately into public and private affairs and began that long life of devotion and attention to business which is the outstanding monument to James Logan. To tell the story of his more than fifty years in Pennsylvania is to chronicle the history of city and state. His life was finally woven into the warp of civic affairs. Penn left the Colony late in 1701, never to return, and the responsibilities and the cares of maintaining his interests were placed upon the shoulders of his young friend and secretary. It is no wonder that he was forty before he had time seriously to set about finding himself a wife. William Penn wrote instructions from the *Dolmahoy*, on which he sailed, a letter addressed to his "Receiver and Secretary," in which he says: "I have left thee in an uncommon trust, with a singular dependence on thy justice and care, which I expect thou wilt faithfully employ in advancing my honest interest."

After desiring Logan to use his utmost endeavors in various particulars, he concludes: "For thy own services, I shall allow thee what is just and reasonable, either by commission or a salary. But my dependence is on thy care and honesty. Serve me faithfully, as thou expects a blessing from God, or my favour, and I shall support thee to the utmost, as thy true friend, William Penn."

This admonition to serve faithfully was carried out for upwards of fifty years through the stress and strain of party politics and despite the mistakes of the Penns in selecting deputies who added greatly to Logan's troubles and despite the clashes of authority and bickerings between Governors and the Council of Assembly. Through jealousies which sought to overthrow the private ownership of the Penns, through wars, through debts and financial troubles the faithful Logan stood with his hands on the helm of Pennsylvania affairs, holding to the course for the Penn family. He became, in turn, Commissioner of Property, a member of the Provincial Council, Judge of the Common Pleas, Mayor of Philadelphia, and (for two years) the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Logan always felt that he had not been adequately paid for his years of devotion and sacrifice. In the early days, he had an allowance which barely covered the keep of a clerk and a horse. It was ten years before he was paid his salary, which was agreed upon as a thousand pounds, for the ten years. He often said in his old age that he would have been twice as well off if he had been able to give more attention to his private affairs.

Where the Logan family lived in Philadelphia some local historian may have traced, but in September, 1724, shortly after the second visit which Logan made to England, he renewed a lease which he had held on the house belonging to his old rival and friend, Thomas Story. This was the house which Edward Shippen had given to his daughter Ann on her marriage. It stood on Second Street between Walnut and Chestnut.

In 1728, Logan began to erect the mansion as it stands today at Stenton. He writes in July of that year the following account of the buildings and of a serious accident which had befallen him:

"Philadelphia, 7th Mo. 28th, 1729.

"I formerly told thee my Plantation is the next to Germantown on this side. I have built a large brick house on it of 51 ft. by 40, two good stories in height, very convenient and not unsightly, if it stood better. I expected to be in before this time, but being not fully plastered, I know not whether we shall get thither before winter. I made a great mistake in building it a plain, cheap, farmer's stone house, but my quarries entirely failed me. It then lay two years to find others, but none could be had that would not cost me dearer than brick, I therefore, resolved on this; the Model and disposition naturally drew on an amount, and the whole will as naturally draw on an expence by Visitants wch will by no means suit me, I must, however, retire, being now wholly reduced to a pair of crutches and Sedentary Life by a fall off my feet in my yard, 16th, 11th Mo. 1727-8, which broke off the round head of my left thigh bone, close by ye joynt, and not one of our surgeons could guess at the ail till long after a callus had grown out between the fractured parts, wch renders it impossible now for them to unite again, and therefore I have not the remotest prospect of a cure, and, which is still more melancholy, it rather grows weaker and more painful, than gathers any strength, so that except my family can afford me any comfort within doors, I am not likely to know any other in Life during the Remainder of it, of whatever duration it may please God to order that to be."

The house was not ready for occupancy until the end of September, 1730, and Logan, in writing to his brother, William Logan, an eminent physician of Bristol, England, and the only one of his brothers or sisters then surviving, says:

"We have been removed to our new house in the Country about 3 weeks. I have proposed to call ye place Stenton, after the village in East Lothian, where our father was born, but Some cannot approve of the name."

Stenton was separated from Philadelphia by what contemporaries described as the very worst road in America. Logan's letters of the time are filled with references to deferred visits and trips abandoned on account of mud and the horrible condition of the highway. Reuben Haines used to saddle his horse just to cross the Germantown road, and Logan, compelled by his infirmity to travel in a chaise or carriage, was often a prisoner to the house. His son-in-law records on a 7th day, the 23rd of 4th month: "My spouse with nurse and child in the chaise and I on horseback set out about half past six and got to Stenton about a quarter past 11."

The curtailment of Logan's physical activities in the sundown of his life resulted in his turning his attention to his library and to scientific and philosophical investigations and writing. The list of Logan's activities in these directions is a long and creditable one. He wrote in Latin scientific and philosophical treatises upon botany; the generation of plants particularly the maize; the quadrant; lightning; optical phenomena; radiation of light; and other subjects. In his old age, he translated Cicero's *De Senectute*, with notes and a preface by Benjamin Franklin; he also translated Cato's distichs into English verses. He was never happier than when among his books, and, as age crept on, he regretted that his children did not inherit the tastes which would make his library useful. Writing to Thomas Story in 1734, he said:

"I have four children now with me, who I think generally take more after their mother than me, which I am sure thou wilt not dislike in them; yet if they had more of a mixture it might be of some use to bring them through the world; and it sometimes gives me an anxious thought that my considerable collections of Greek and Roman authors, with others in various languages, will not find an heir in my family to use them as I have done, but after my decease must be sold or squandered."

In addition, the affairs of the colony and of the Penns kept his mind busily occupied. Then too, he had always been a consistent friend of the Indians, who paid him special visits and made Stenton a camping ground on their way to and from the city. His correspondence abounds with references to the visits of Indian chiefs and delegations. This letter written to the Proprietor, Thomas Penn, then in Philadelphia, is a typical one:

"The Indians are come hither since five this afternoon, one of them called Capt. Toolema, from Shamokin, who say there are 4 Mingo Chiefs, two of them Mohocks, with Allummapis, Lappawinsse, and thirty more men, besides a great number of women to be here tomorrow morning; that they have a large Present, & that they are to sell land. The Capt. appears to be a sober man, (take him out of drink) and his story appears not improbable. A suitable Provision, therefore, ought to be made for them there immediately, for we are at present but poorly provided for such numbers. I thought it necessary to advise of this tonight, and therefore, send on purpose."

Connassetego, Chief of the Onondagas, in a treaty

made with the Six Nations at Philadelphia in July, 1742, by Governor George Thomas and council, thus expressed himself in relation to Logan:

"Brethren, we called at our friend James Logan's on our way to this city, and to our grief found him hid in the bushes and retired through infirmities from public business. We pressed him to leave his retirement, and prevailed with him to assist once more on our account at your council. He is a wise man and a fast friend to the Indians, and we desire when his soul goes to God you may choose in his room just such another person of the same prudence and ability in counselling, and of the same tender disposition and affection for the Indians."

Between 1731 and 1739, Logan was Chief Justice of the Province. When he was not able to come to the city, consultations between him and his associates were held at Stenton.

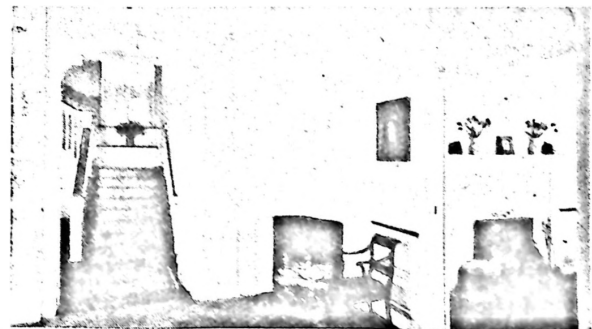
James Logan died on the 31st of 8th month, 1751. The *Pennsylvania Gazette*, in speaking of his death, says:

"Some years before his death, he retired from public affairs to Stenton, his country seat, where he enjoyed among his books that leisure which men of letters so often do. He was thoroughly versed in ancient and modern learning, acquainted with the Oriental tongue, master of the French, Greek and Latin languages, deeply skilled in mathematics, science, and in natural and moral philosophy. But the most durable monument of his wisdom, and spirit of benevolence and affection regarding the people of Pennsylvania, is his library, which he had been gathering for fifty years, with the greatest care and judgment, intending it a benefaction to the public for the increasing of knowledge and for the common use of all lovers of learning. It contains the best edition of the best books in various languages, arts and sciences, and is without doubt the largest and by far the most valuable collection of the kind in this part of the world, and will convey the name of Logan through ages with honor to the latest posterity."

James Logan's funeral was held at the Meeting House in Philadelphia, and his remains were interred in the Friends Burying Ground at 4th and Arch Streets.

After Logan's death, Stenton was occupied by his son William, then for a short time by the latter's son William, and then for many years by that William's brother, Dr. George Logan, whose talented wife was Deborah Norris. For more than a century, no distinguished visitors came from abroad without entering its portal. It is said that every member of the Penn family who has visited America since the time of William Penn has been entertained here.]

Dr. George Logan became a person of national importance. He was a Senator of the United States



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and the correspondent and friend of many public men. General Washington, while presiding over the Constitutional Convention, rode out and dined with Dr. Logan and passed the day at Stenton in a social and friendly manner. Dr. Logan made interesting experiments in agriculture and, by using land plaster on his grass lands, caused initials and words to stand out against the darker green. Washington was delighted with this visible evidence of the value of lime. Previous to this, Washington occupied the mansion as headquarters during the movement of the American Army, in 1777, prior to the Battle of Brandywine, and, at a later date, General Howe used it as his headquarters before the Battle of Germantown. Dr. George Logan was the inventor of a plow on a new principle, and obliged his friends by having some made for them. On November 30, 1793, Thomas Jefferson paid eight dollars for one, and, some months before, Madison wrote: "I have seen Dr. Logan.

Your plows will be done in a week and shall be attended to."

It is to the fine instincts and literary taste of his widow, Deborah Logan, that we owe the preservation and publication of the Penn-Logan papers. She edited two volumes of these letters, letters up to the year 1719. She survived her husband, Dr. George Logan, and left a memoir of him and his association with Stenton. It is a fortunate thing that Stenton is now in the hands of the City of Philadelphia, cared for and protected by an interested organization. Next best to having some descendant of the Logan family occupying it as a center of the culture and civic usefulness which emanated from it for so many decades, this is what James Logan would most have desired for it.

James Logan left two tangible, dignified, and altogether satisfying monuments. One is the great Loganian Library, founded between 1699 and 1751 and, since 1792, incorporated with Franklin's Library Company of Philadelphia. The other is the mansion at Stenton, now the property of the City of Philadelphia and dedicated to the enjoyment of the public. Its classic lines, its setting, its practical convenience all bespeak the character of the builder. It will be recalled that its preservation to us is due to the quick thinking of Dinah, a colored caretaker.

During the winter of British occupation, 1777, an order was issued to burn all the mansions between Germantown and Philadelphia, and seventeen were destroyed at one time. The two dragoons who came to burn Stenton went to the barn, which is still standing, to get some straw to start the flames. While they were gone, an officer looking for deserters rode up. Dinah told him that two men who looked like deserters were lurking in the barn. The British officer pounced upon them and despite their indignant protests, marched them off to the provost guard. Stenton was saved for the time and the effort was not repeated. The Germantown Historical Society has erected a monument to Dinah, which stands at the lower end of the old-time garden. When you next visit Stenton, take a minute to read the marker's inscription, sit awhile among the flowers, and vivify the memory of the "Sage of Stenton."

THE COVER

G. Edwin Brumbaugh, architect, at the request of the Society, submitted an interesting and artistic bird's-eye view of Market Square in Germantown, showing his ideas of proposed changes to restore the early character of the Square. With this study as a beginning, the Society is fully confident that the citizens of Germantown will join with it in expediting measures which will make the restoration plan a reality.

Early Industries in Germantown

BY KATHLEEN MASON

FARMING and weaving were the earliest industries in Germantown, the latter following the former in natural sequence. The art of weaving was brought from Germany, and some of the first settlers began at once to raise flax, from which they wove all types of linen goods. As early as 1686, three years after their advent, one of their number received the Governor's premium for the first and finest piece of linen cloth. At a later period the manufacture of Germantown wool was begun, and it was a leading industry for many years. The first manufacturers had considerable trade outside the town. They would take their goods, mostly raw materials, to Philadelphia and display them for sale on High Street. The manufacture of stockings from wool was soon begun; by 1760 a record states that "the Germantown thread stockings were in high estimation, and in 1758 there were manufactured in Germantown above sixty thousand dozen pairs, the common retail price being a dollar per pair."¹ Germantown wool is still made, and some of the textile mills now in operation date back to the early 19th century.

About 1830 many English manufacturers came to Germantown to set up mills for the manufacture of knit goods. Many of them became quite wealthy and their mills have continued until this day. The Industrial Revolution which came to England in the early part of the nineteenth century, was brought to America by means of these first factory workers and their desire for a new field without disastrous competition. About 1830, Thomas Fisher erected the first cotton mill in Germantown and a number of English frame work knitters were imported to operate the mill. In 1831, John Button set up a hosiery mill on Negley's Hill where he did a thriving business. Germantown knit goods soon became familiar in every city and village of the country.

In addition to these mills there were others of a quite early date which were essential to the first inhabitants. These were the corn and grist mills. The early settlers quickly appreciated the possibilities of the many water courses on every hand. Townsend's grist mill gave to Mill Creek its name; Potts' corn mill utilized the Wingohocking, while the Robesons located a saw and grist mill on the Wissahickon in 1700, and the Livezeys and Hinkles erected grist mills on Cresheim Creek.²

Roberts' Mill was perhaps the best known of these. It was located on Mill Creek, which crossed Church Lane not far from York Road, and was built by

Richard Townsend, an English Friend, who came over on the *Welcome*. He first settled on Chester Creek and there erected a mill which had been brought along from London ready framed. When Germantown was laid out, he settled upon a tract of land he had purchased from the proprietor in England. Here he set up a house and corn mill in 1683. There were not many horses in those days, and people brought their corn to the mill to be ground in large sacks which they carried on their backs. A recollection is noted of a man who had a tame bull which carried the corn to the mill. A man named Lukens was the successor of Townsend, and he gave his name to Church Lane, which was first called Lukens' Mill Road and later Mill Street. Lukens was running the mill in 1777. After that it passed into the hands of Hugh Roberts, who carried on the business until his death. His son Spencer succeeded to the business which he continued until 1858, when the old mill was abandoned and business removed to a mill at Church Lane and the Reading Railroad. The old Mill was torn down in 1874.³

Another important early industry was that of paper-making, which was closely connected with printing. The earliest paper mill in America is credited to Germantown. It was the mill of William Rittenhouse, was located on Monoshone Creek, a tributary to the Wissahickon. The mill was erected in 1690 by a company composed of Samuel Carpenter, Robert Turner, Thomas Tresse, William Bradford, and William Rittenhouse, the last-named being the most important member, as he was the papermaker. Carpenter's interest in the company originated in his ownership of the land. In 1693, he conveyed twenty acres of the land to the other members of the company. Rittenhouse was allotted two shares, on which the mill stood. The paper was manufactured from the rags left by the linen weavers, who probably sold them to Rittenhouse.

The first mill was washed away by a freshet in 1701; this was succeeded by three more, the last being erected in 1780. Rittenhouse died in 1708 and left the mill to his son Nicholas, who was succeeded in turn by his son and grandson. As a result of a marriage between a Rittenhouse and a Markle, the mill eventually passed over into the latter family. The old mill was last used as a cotton bat factory, as the Markles had moved the paper-making business to a more modern mill.⁴

Along with paper-making came the art of printing.



Robert's Mill, Church Lane and
Wingohocking Creek

William Bradford, famous early Philadelphia printer, who established the first printing press in Pennsylvania, for a time used all the paper made in the Rittenhouse mill. Christopher Sauer, a later resident of Germantown, who was a clockmaker, bookseller and apothecary, evidently taught himself the printing trade. In 1738 he procured a printing press from Germany, and in 1739 began to issue the first German newspaper in America. It was called the *High German Pennsylvania Historian*, with the subtitle: "A Collection of Important News from the Kingdom of Nature and of the Church. This was first a quarterly but was made monthly and enlarged in 1741. Its object was to collect foreign and domestic news; it also promised to furnish questions, addressed to serious minds, with proper answers. The type for this journal was cast by Sauer who also made his own ink. It became a paper of much influence and was continued until the time of the Revolution.

In 1743 Sauer issued the first Bible, in a European tongue, published in America. This was forty years before an English Bible was printed in the Colonies, although it is said, Bradford had thought of printing one earlier. Subsequent editions of this Bible were printed by Sauer's son in 1763 and 1776. Here also was printed the first book in America on the subject of education, written by Christopher Dock.⁵

Several small streams passing through the town were suitable for utilization in tanning. Some of the oldest families were engaged in transforming raw hides into leather, while others engaged in the manu-

facture of shoes. When a person wanted a new pair of shoes he went to the shoemaker's shop, which may have been a part of a dwelling house. The shoemaker measured his foot, and then made the shoes with only hand tools. So, early Germantowners wore custom-made shoes.

Samuel Keyser had a tannery next to the Mennonite Church, and the apprentices at his shop used to act as sextons and gravediggers, their only remuneration being the thanks of the members. Most of the tanneries were situated along Honey Run on the west side of Germantown Avenue. This little stream was, paradoxically, so called because of its bitter taste, created by the deposits from the tanneries.

In the early days, Germantown Road was noted for its mud which made it a very inconvenient road to travel. Oldtime predecessors of today's "wise-crackers" were fond of telling the story of a gentleman living on one side of the road, who had to harness a horse to ride across to the other side. This inconvenience, however, was very profitable for Germantown as it increased the importance of her general stores. In these stores you could buy almost anything from molasses, muslin and curry combs down to whiskey, which retailed at twelve and fifteen cents per quart.

Abraham Rex in 1769 kept a general store uptown where the farmers brought their products and exchanged them for salt, fish, clover and grass seed, groceries and dry goods, while the merchants who came from the city could obtain their supply of grains, vegetables and cured meats.⁶

A similar general store was conducted by Henry Freas at the southwest corner of Washington Lane and Germantown Road. This gentleman was noted for his habit of keeping everything. When things went out of style, he stored them in the attic. Once upon a time, an old tale runs, an old lady came to Germantown from up-country to purchase a goose-yoke. A goose-yoke was a long stick something like a shepherd's crook which was put about the neck of a goose to steer it. The old lady went all over Germantown looking for one of these odd contrivances, and was about to give up her search when a well-informed native told her to try Henry Freas. That frugal storekeeper allowed as how there might be a goose-yoke in the attic. Sure enough, there was; so Henry made a good sale and the up-country hausfrau went home pleased with her purchase. Henry's emporium was in Upper Germantown. At the same time, a general store in Lower Germantown was run by Jabez Gates.

Scattered along the roadside, wayside inns were the only places where the weary traveler, journeying either for business or pleasure, was sure to find shelter and refreshment. The Germantown inns, well-known for their good cheer, cleanliness, and hospitality, were quite numerous. One of the most popular about 1776 was the Green Tree Tavern just above High

(Continued on page 29)

Decades of Dress

BY ELIZABETH M. MELLOR

IF THE "proper study of mankind is man," surely no phase of man's activity has received more study through the ages than has dress. It is an art, a science, and today one of the major industries of the civilized world. Constructive thought, great ingenuity, and years of training lie behind the fashions of each season.

No fashion change however is really new but is always a modification or evolution of what has gone before and, strangely enough, each change can always be said to be a reflection of the manners or tensions of the time.

An authority on fashion research, Agnes Young, says that there are but three basic cycles of which all fashions are modifications or adaptations: the bell, as in the hoop; the back fullness, as the bustle of the 1880's; and the tubular, as in the Empire.

Then, too, as in morals and manners, the pendulum of fashion swings from the extreme of furbelow and fuss to the extreme of plainness and simplicity.

These and many other characteristics of fashion's vagaries are brought vividly to mind in the unique costume library which the Germantown Historical Society has been slowly and carefully compiling. Catalogued and boxed carefully, it has gowns of almost every period since 1800. Many people have felt it a safe repository for precious heirloom clothes; the succession of wedding gowns is surprisingly complete from 1830.

That the last one hundred and fifty years have given us an amazing and fascinating range of fashion, is colorfully shown in the historical society's costume library. The dress of man has, in those years done some strange turnabouts from knee britches, lace ruffles and flowered waistcoats, through the sleek trimness of the 1840's, to frock coats and again plus fours, but our purpose now is to follow briefly the fascinating fashion history of lovely ladies in America since 1800.

Someone has cleverly remarked that no woman on the way to buy a new hat ever committed suicide and Emerson, of all people, says, "The sense of being perfectly well dressed gives a woman a feeling of inward tranquillity which religion is powerless to bestow." Indeed, there is no doubt that the fine art of dress has more than a material aspect!

There is an increasing interest in the growing costume library of the Germantown Historical Society. Constantly there are requests for costume information and for the loan of period gowns for

exhibition purposes. The Society is interested always to give and interested, too, to receive gowns and accessories to make more complete its permanent collection and more possible its power to serve.

We are familiar with the gracious elegance of the Colonial dame, bespeaking stately dignity and plenty of slaves or servants to carry the burden of living. Even before the turn of the century, however, skirts were slimming and waists rising until we see the true Empire silhouette—long and slim with the waistline under the armpits, a knot of curls on top of the head, poke bonnets, mits, reticules. The materials were soft and dainty, flowered muslins or mull with unbelievably beautiful and fine embroidery patiently worked by hand.

This was the period of the classic revival—neo-Greek so called—when Grecian pillars and facades graced square imposing mansions, and simple lines and dainty reliefs marked the furniture. In Andalusia on the Delaware River was seen Philadelphia's more beautiful example of this style of architecture and furnishings.

Though sometimes it seems quite the reverse, yet it is true that circumstances and external conditions do control our thinking, and so, the very form of our chairs and our bonnets.

In the 1820's skirts began to be fuller, waists longer, until in the '30's and '40's came a period of very lovely, very feminine dress. Full skirts, often flounced, and pointed waists, off-the-shoulder neckline with soft lace and a curl that followed the check and snuggled into the neck. It was the time when ladies wrote verses and painted flowers and were discreetly dainty—always.



The Gody Ladies Book which made Fashion History



Shawls—How to Wear Them

From all this charming softness evolved the hoop skirt—than which there has seldom been an uglier and more uncompromising fashion. A cage of tape and wire held the very full skirt in rigid position while little flutings and cordings and much fringe trimmed both skirt and basque-like waist. During the Civil War women struggled with the inconvenience of this strange mode. No trim uniforms with short skirts and adaptable jackets for the girls who braved public opinion and helped in the hospitals and worked with the Sanitary Commission in 1864!

The '70's produced a most distinctive type of dress. From the nape of the neck to the end of the rather long train was an unbroken slope, but a slope decorated with unbelievable intricacies of ruffs and puffs and scallops, bows and braids and flutings.

The making of a costume in the '70's was indeed a serious and complicated project. There could be no makeshifts.

The mid-Victorian lady and the mid-Victorian furniture certainly went together!

With the material success and greatly increasing wealth of the middle century, American women more and more turned to Europe for the latest in fashion and, to be really of the elite, one's clothes must come from Paris. The more revolutionary the style the greater the thrill.

Gossip says that the New York woman donned her gown the minute it came off the ship; the Boston lady waited six months; but in Philadelphia the tissue wrappings were not removed for a year! No vulgar haste here.

There are few sadder tales than that of the girl who was invited to visit the family of her fiance in a rather distant town. The Saratoga trunk was brought down and all the family assisted at the packing. A Saratoga trunk had a rounded dome-like lid and within several "tills" or trays which fitted one over the other—admirably suited for caring for the wardrobe of the 70's. Each till was arranged with loving care, the puffs and flutings padded and meticulously arranged

and all seemed well. When the happy girl arrived at her destination ready for all the planned celebrations it was discovered that the till in which were packed the basques of her very best gowns had been left at home under the bed!

The next decade developed a simpler and more sophisticated elegance. Sleeves were long and tight, waists severely fitted, skirts long, straight in front and bustled, a silhouette unique and amazing. The bigger your bustle, the grander your gown.

With the coming of the gay '90's, clothes did several surprising things. The enormous sleeves of the middle of the decade are hard to believe and the high, tight, boned collars were a surprising form of torture, but the Gibson girl had charm and a certain dignity were she dressed in shirt waist and skirt with a sailor hat, or serene in very décolleté evening dress with bell skirt and an absolutely straight front.

From then, through the first decade of the new century clothes increased in fussiness—broadcloth, velvet, satin, lace, "passementerie," ribbon, braid all used in the same gown. It must have required a great ingenuity to put together so many things and turn out an elegant lady.

War years followed and, for the first time in America, women in uniform were part of the picture. Smart blue serge skirt and jacket with a Sam Brown belt were worn by the Women's National League for Service. The girls of the Friend's Reconstruction Unit wore overseas a most fetching uniform.

Primarily because of wartime shortages, when three yards of material was the limit for a dress, there evolved in the 1920's one of the strangest of all the strange freaks of fashion. Waists dropped to the hip line, skirts climbed to the knees and every woman mysteriously acquired the figure of a little boy. A hat, modelled apparently on the medieval helmet, closely covering both ears and nearly both eyes, was the acme of smartness.

It was the era of the tubular silhouette. Again, the outrageous bizarre fashion seemed another expression of the distraught post-war psychology.

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The Amazing Hoop of the 1860's

Another Proud Page

BRUCE JONES

THE second annual Germantown Week, staged under the auspices of the Germantown Community Council, added another proud page to the history of Germantown. Germantown Week was a success. It made friends for the Council and friends for Germantown. It made money for the Council and for the many participating organizations which shared their receipts from the Vernon Fair. It brought an increased awareness of the community to all our citizens.

No detailed recapitulation of the events is needed for readers of the CRIER. It is enough to say that over 6,000 people attended Germantown Week, that the Council netted about \$1800. On the Saturday, between 650 and 700 intensely interested "historic tourists" visited the many fine old houses opened through the co-operation of the Germantown Historical Society. They admired the mantelpieces at Upsala, the gardens at Wyck, the library at Stenton—in fact, they thoroughly enjoyed their opportunity to turn back to life in another century. It was difficult, in fact impossible, to close the doors of the Historical Society's Museum when the hour for closing came. There was still so much to see!

Others had applauded, earlier in the Week, when Mrs. Strawbridge received the Lions Club Distinguished Service Award, when Robert McCracken spoke at the Business Men's Luncheon, when Elaine Brown did such a wonderful piece of work in conducting the massed choruses at the Schools Music Festival. Nearly everyone managed to stop by the Vernon Fair at some time during the day, and just about all the kids managed to get a ride on the shiny red fire engine!

The Fair was, of course, the biggest, as well as the most colorful, event of all the events of Germantown Week. The green and yellow booths, the fluttering pennants, the hundreds of paintings of the Philadelphia Art League's Clothesline Exhibit, gave an exceedingly festive appearance to Vernon Park.

It is true that many other organizations and communities stage fairs or fetes as successful as the Vernon Fair; but Germantown is unique in its demonstrated ability to organize and carry through a much more diversified program, a program that is an implementation of the Community Council's slogan—"Unity in the Community." Over seventy organizations shared in the planning and presentation of Germantown Week. Busy people gladly gave their time that this enriching experience might be brought to their fellow-citizens.

Germantown may certainly be proud of its Community Council.

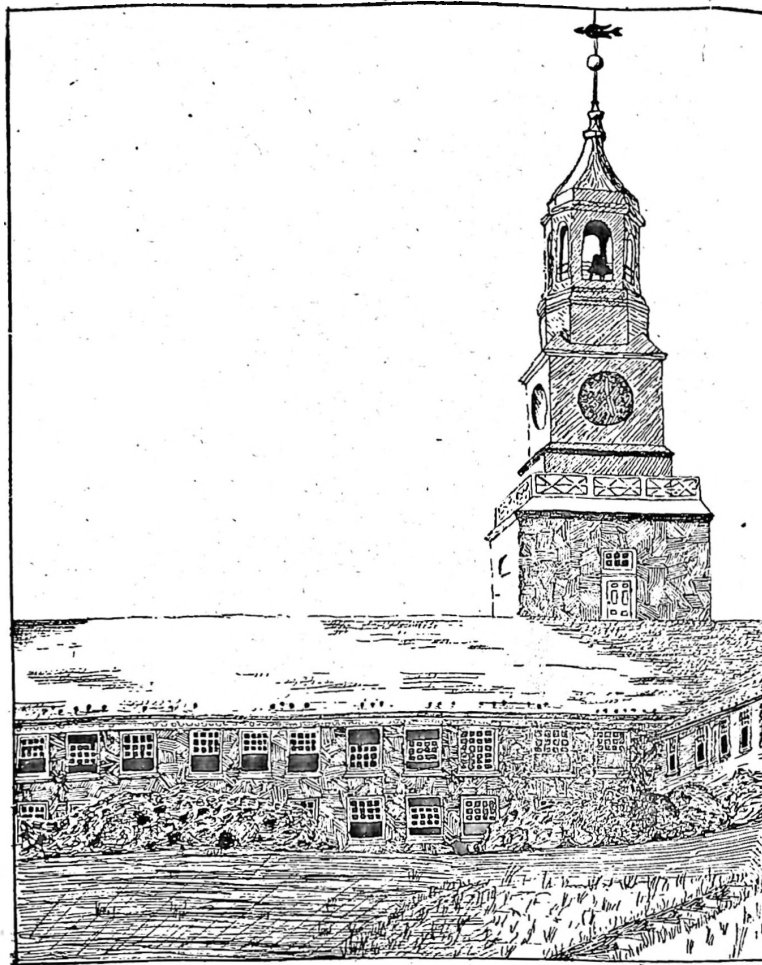
IT APPEARS from the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia that soon after the Meeting was established a school was set up through the voluntary contributions of members of Meeting. This was "to encourage relations and well-disposed persons to become tutors of the youth in useful and necessary instruction; also that the children of the poor might have the benefit of proper learning; and the oversight of the said school was committed to the care of a number of Friends appointed by the said Monthly Meeting." This quotation, from the minutes of the Overseers of The William Penn Charter School dated Sixth Month 30th, 1779, shows the result of William Penn's concern for the establishment of a school system in his City of Brotherly Love. Friends had long been interested in the establishment and operation of schools such as those at Waltham Abbey and at Shacklewell, which were encouraged by George Fox.

Penn himself had an excellent education, and he felt that Quaker education should produce Christian character rather than mere intellectual brilliance. Because the affairs of the School founded in 1689 under the care of the Meeting occupied too much time in the business sessions of the Meeting, in 1697 application was made for a charter to be granted by William Penn. This was really the second charter of the School because Markham, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania in 1697, had already granted a charter.

Penn granted a charter with the consent of the Provincial Council in 1701 "incorporating the Overseers as The Overseer of the Public School Founded in Philadelphia at the request, causes, and charges of the people of God called Quakers with the right of perpetual succession by that name to hold lands, and with the consent of the Monthly Meeting to demise and grant lands, and to frame such rules and orders for the government of the said school as to the said Meeting should seem most meet."

Minor changes were made in the subsequent charters of 1708 and 1711, notably the provision that the Overseers should be a self-perpetuating corporation, and requiring vacancies to be filled by the remaining members within a certain time-limit. The Charter of 1711 does not require that the Overseers be members of Friends Meeting, though all of them have been thus far. The corporate title as stated in the Charter of 1711 was "The Overseers of the Public School Founded by Charter in the Town and County of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania." Penn directed that the seal of the School should be his coat of arms with this motto "round about": "Good Instruction is Better Than Riches."

Space does not permit us to dwell upon the development of schools which issued from this Charter. Suffice it to say that the original building was at the corner of Second Street and Strawberry Alley, and that it cost two hundred sixty-four pounds. New

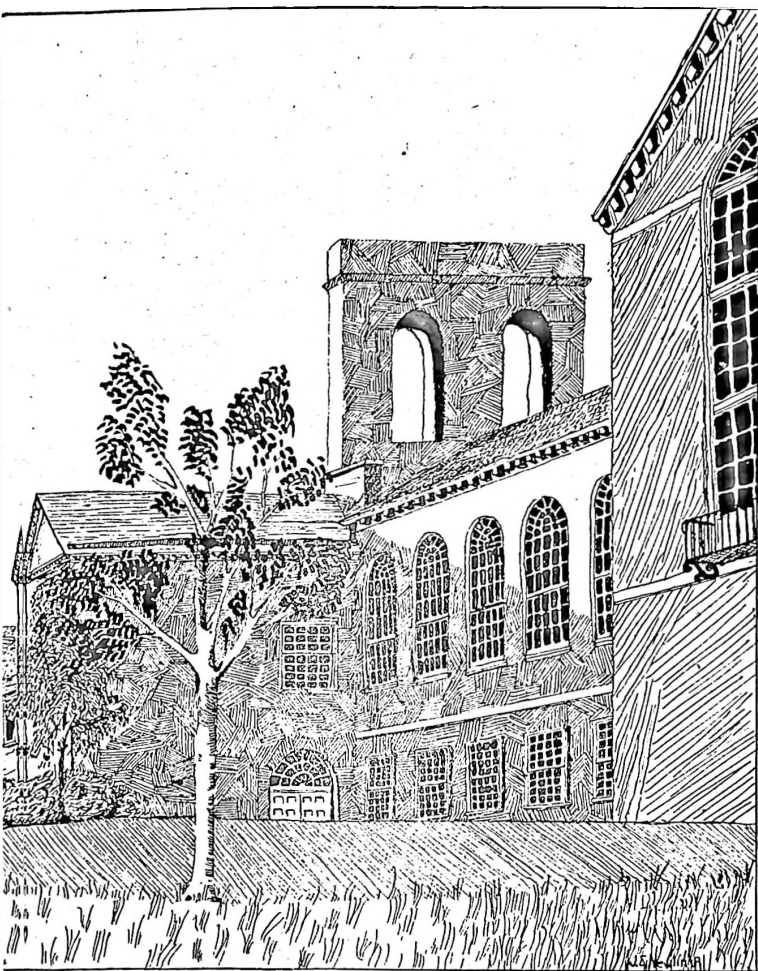


Highlights of the William Penn

DR. JOHN

buildings were later erected and additional schools opened. It was difficult to secure capable masters for the schools, and constant recourse was had to Friends in London for recommendations. For instance in 1746 John Hunt and John Fothergill of London were asked to recommend a Friend qualified to teach Latin and Greek; he was to receive an annual salary of one hundred pounds sterling.

The Overseers' minutes of Seventh Month 12th, 1779 list the following schools which were then under their care: Grammar School for Latin, Greek, Writing, and Arithmetic, headed by John Thompson; a school under John Todd for Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, and some "branches of Mathematics"; another school under Joseph Yerkes, limited to the children of Friends; another under George Smith for Friends and others; Anthony Benezet, famous Philadelphian, had the care of a



e History of the Charter School

. GUMMERE

school for girls where reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught. He received a salary of thirty pounds a year. Rebecca Jones and Hannah Catherall had a school for girls, as did S. X. Flower and Anne Rakestraw. Among other heads was Charles Thomson, later Secretary of the Continental Congress, whose Ovid is still in the possession of the School.

It was in 1875 that a consolidation and establishment of a school for boys took place, and Richard M. Jones, Penn Charter's great Headmaster, took charge. The school was at 8 South 12th Street, and adjoined the Twelfth Street Meeting House. For seventy years the boys of Penn Charter racketed around the old brick yard. Richard Jones died in 1917 after forty-two years of service; he brought the school to a position of national eminence.

Richard M. Gummere, who was an Overseer at the time, was chosen to succeed Richard M. Jones in

1918, after Frederick L. Smith had acted as Assistant Headmaster in charge of the School for one year. In 1925 the School moved to its present site at "Pinehurst" in Queen Lane. The ground it occupies had been bought and given to the School in 1903 by the executors of the Clementine Cope estate. The sale of the property on Twelfth Street, and contributions of interested Friends enabled the School to pay in full for its new plant. In the early 1930's another gymnasium and four squash courts were added.

Under Richard Gummere the curriculum was enriched and strong encouragement was given to innovations and improvements in various fields of education. The present outstanding Music Department may be traced to his foresight and encouragement.

The present Headmaster, John F. Gummere, is a graduate of the School, and has been on its staff for the last twenty-six years; he was appointed Acting Headmaster in 1941, Headmaster in 1942. Under his direction, successful efforts have been made to secure a faculty of unusually diversified background in that forty-five staff members hold degrees from forty different colleges and universities. The enrollment of over six hundred includes boys from eighty-two city and suburban communities. Nearly all graduates go on to post-secondary education, and the Class of 1949, numbering sixty-five, will enter some thirty different institutions. In order to provide first-class facilities for Music, and to make room for the expanding Junior School, an addition to the present building is to be finished in October.

In the School's possession are many interesting books and papers. From the library of the late Governor Pennypacker came the Delphin edition of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* which was used by Charles Thomson, later Secretary of the Continental Congress, when he was Headmaster of the School. An old account book shows the payment of the sum of six shillings to Benjamin Franklin, while specimens of printing which he did for the Overseers are still in good condition. Of special interest to residents of Germantown is the letter of application for a teaching position from Anthony Benezet, first advocate of the abolition of slavery, for whom Benezet Street is named. He got the job, incidentally. His letter says, in part: ". . . j think j could teach every hand in writing except the Italian" and to judge by his neat script, he practised what he preached.

Also of special interest to local residents is the fact that the Logan district of Philadelphia and Logan Street were named for the first Clerk of Overseers of the School, James Logan, William Penn's Secretary.

On display at the School are deeds of property dating from 1682, and signed by Penn himself; also the second of the charters which he granted to the School, that of 1708.

The first issues of what is now *The Penn Charter Magazine* may be seen, framed, in the School office.

(Continued on page 26)

Germantown's First Artists

ELEANOR G. RITTER

HISTORIC Germantown has the honor of being the birthplace of some of America's first, finest and best known portraits. Three famous artists, each born approximately two hundred years ago, painted portraits which have brought considerable artistic fame to Germantown and for which these many years we have been extremely proud.

The first of these artists, and one of America's earliest native painters, who was cut off by death before his talent had secured him much profit, was John Meng, born in Germantown on February 6, 1734. He was the fifth son of Christopher Meng, who came to Germantown from his native Manheim, Germany, in the year 1728. John Meng, as a young boy, decided to become an artist. He was decidedly gifted with artistic tastes, and soon acquired considerable skill with the pencil and brush.

His practical father did not approve of his choice of a profession and so John at about the age of twenty ran away to the West Indies to follow his loved profession unhampered by restraint. After about only two years there he died but left behind him several well-known and most commendable works.

A very well painted portrait of himself, in oil, was in the possession of Charles S. Ogden, who also had the following works by this young artist: a half-sized portrait of his father, Christopher Meng; a portrait of a lady, full length, and a portrait of a lady commenced in the West Indies but left unfinished. There is reason to believe that there are other portraits by this early Germantown artist in the possession of old Philadelphia families.

Charles Willson Peale, the second of our famous Germantown artists, was born in Maryland in 1741. He studied painting with both Copley in Boston and West in England.

He came to Philadelphia from Annapolis in 1776 and soon after opened his studio at Third and Lombard Streets, where he painted many well-known portraits of soldiers, statesmen, philosophers and eminent foreigners who visited America.

The artist was also a patriot and fought gallantly as captain of volunteers under Washington at the battles of Trenton and Germantown. With his portraits of fellow officers he started a gallery in Peale's Museum after the war. Later this was called The Philadelphia Museum.

Many times he painted Washington, and his son, Rembrandt, says he painted the first portrait ever executed of the president who was forty-one at the

time. The best known of his Washington portraits was by order of Lafayette for the King of France. This portrait now hangs in our National gallery in Washington to which it was presented during the French Revolution.

His portrait of Benjamin Franklin was for many years the accepted likeness of that famous man and his portrait of Jefferson is still considered the best likeness ever executed.

It was not until 1810, at the age of sixty-nine, that Peale, wishing to retire and apply the "mechanics of agriculture" located a place to his liking near Germantown. He moved his large family from the city out to the small, gambrel-roofed stone mansion house situated an equal distance between the Germantown Pike and the Old York Turnpike, one-half mile from each. The ground included 104 acres of land with two streams and two small but promising falls of water.

He had stopped at this place during his Revolutionary campaigns and now found it out of repair but at the bargain price of \$9,500. The house with connecting piazza had an older stone building nearby, a stone barn and spring house, stable, wagon and carriage houses and other outbuildings. He looked forward to the work of repairing the buildings and cultivating the land and immediately named the place "Farm Persevere." Two years later he changed the name to "Belfield" which was the name of John Hesselius' home in Maryland, where he had received his first painting lessons.

Peale enjoyed the hard work of the farm and made many scientific improvements and inventions to lighten the burden of daily chores.

With the aid of his son, Rubens, who had been managing The Philadelphia Museum, part of the farm was developed into botanical gardens containing many things of unusual interest including fountains and summer houses. Gradually the Peale garden at Belfield became famous and even the mill containing Peale's inventions became "a perfect curiosity to strangers." Finally on Sundays they had to refuse to open the gates to visitors in order to protect the fruit trees.

Also famous was the sweet wine made at Belfield of currants raised for the purpose of producing greater profit from the farm than the other crops had shown.

Peale, though busy and happy in his farm life, had not entirely retired from the occupation for which he was best known, for with his son, Rembrandt, he painted many landscapes from Belfield and also con-

tinued to paint portraits at intervals in order to enlarge his portrait gallery and to add to his Philadelphia Museum. At least one time during his life in Germantown he gave a public exhibition of his paintings in his home.

When Peale was 83 years old he painted the famous full-length portrait of himself standing in a museum. This portrait now hangs in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts of which institution he was one of the principal founders.

The third of Germantown's famous early artists is Gilbert Stuart who is generally considered the most distinguished portrait painter that America has produced. His work even in the modern schools ranks exceedingly high. He holds the distinction of being the first American portrait painter to show skillful accuracy, good knowledge of color and sense of dignity and carriage in the subject. Most of his portraits show great force and truth.

Stuart was born in Rhode Island in 1755, the only son of an immigrant Scottish snuff grinder.

While still a child he studied with Cosmo Alexander an old Scotch painter who took a great fancy to him. Later he studied in England with Benjamin West, becoming his assistant.

Stuart painted many persons of importance in England including King George and his son, Prince George. He is said to have given up this career of success to return to his native land mainly for his great desire to paint our own most famous George, George Washington.

He came to Philadelphia in 1794, opening his studio at Fifth and Chestnut Streets, but because of his popularity and many interruptions to his work, in 1796 he moved to Germantown where he secured more privacy and seclusion.

He lived in the house then owned by Samuel Brighthurst which until recently stood at 5140 Germantown Avenue and was well known as "The Corvy." In the rear of this was a barn which he used as his studio. This burned down in 1854, but the foundations, covered over, stood for many years.

Being witty and gay, Stuart attracted a wealthy and distinguished clientele and during his lifetime painted most of the great men of his time.

Of Washington, Stuart painted from life three different portraits. The first was known as the Vaughan portrait, named for the first owner of the original, Samuel Vaughan, of England. Of this, executed in his Fifth and Chestnut Street studio, Stuart made but few copies, as he was not completely satisfied with the likeness.

The second was the full length Lansdowne portrait. It is thought that the original of this was painted in this Philadelphia studio, but later a copy, painted for William Bingham for his own use, now in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, was unquestionably painted in the Germantown studio.



The first portrait of Washington. Painted by Charles Willson Peale at Mount Vernon, May 1772

The original was painted for Mrs. Bingham for a gift to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

What is known as the Athenaeum portrait, which was made by Stuart in his Germantown studio while the seat of the national government was here in Philadelphia, is considered the finest and most adequate of all the portraits of Washington, whether by Stuart or others. It is thought the one genuine likeness of the first president.

It was Mark Twain who said, "If Washington should rise from the dead and not resemble the Stuart portrait, he would be denounced as an impostor."

The portrait had been commissioned by Washington but Stuart never completed the background of the original, and, at his request, Washington permitted Stuart to keep the unfinished portrait, completely satisfied to accept in its stead a finished copy.

Of this original Stuart made many copies for which he always managed to find a ready sale and charged \$100 each.

The Athenaeum portrait did not remain in Philadelphia, but after Stuart's death in Boston in 1828 it and a companion portrait of Mrs. Washington were sold for \$1,500 to the Washington Association which presented them to the Boston Athenaeum. They now hang in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Germantown claims many successive artists of fame and recognition and today holds a well-known place high in the esteem of art circles and critics. Of all these artists we are very proud but special pride is reserved for our own first three—John Meng, Charles Willson Peale and Gilbert Stuart.



George Washington Parke Custis

THE functions of the national Government had almost ceased. The scourge of yellow fever that devastated Philadelphia in 1793 had driven all who could do so to leave the city. President Washington had set out for Mt. Vernon on the 10th of September. Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, was ill of the disease at Fair Hill, two and one-half miles from Philadelphia. Edmund Randolph, the Attorney General, was at Spencer's, which would be at Church Lane and Dunton Street, now Thomas. Jefferson, the Secretary of State, had put up at the King of Prussia Inn on Germantown Road near School House Lane. Oliver Wolcott, Jr., Auditor of the Treasury, had secured Dr. William Smith's house near the Falls of the Schuylkill. Here temporary offices of the Treasury Department had been opened and the public business was attended to as well as circumstances would permit. President Washington required a written report from General Knox, the Secretary of War, to be sent to Mt. Vernon each Monday. Knox had left for Boston on the 19th of September.

By that time, the Philadelphia roads were guarded by militia to prevent any of the yellow-fever victims from leaving. New York forbade all intercourse with Philadelphia, as Baltimore had done. The city became a pariah; but no embargo was put on travelers from it by the surrounding towns.

Germantown, fortunately, had escaped the contagion and, as a result, had received so many citizens fleeing from the city that its private houses and inns were filled to overflowing.

The question of where the Congress should meet consequently occupied the President's mind. He was marking out new paths and eager to be right. How to call the Congress together elsewhere than at the

Washington Sent His Boy To Germantown Academy

HORACE MATHER LIPPINCOTT

plagued capital was a problem. After much correspondence between the President and his Cabinet ministers, Germantown was selected as temporary capitol; and Oliver Wolcott, after investigation, recommended the Germantown Academy as able to "afford tolerable accommodations for the two Houses and their immediate Officers." Others concurred, and so Washington bent his thoughts toward securing a place in Germantown to live in.

It was Edmund Randolph, the Attorney General, who arranged for the President to live in the headmaster's house, a house adjoining the Academy. This house had been built in 1763 by David James Dove, a former master, and was occupied by the Reverend Frederick Herman, master of the German school at the Academy. The house has been restored and is now occupied by the administration offices of the school.

Washington's experience of Germantown at the Academy and at Colonel Frank's house in 1793 having apparently been satisfactory, the President arranged with the owner to take the latter house, which we know as the Morris House, for six weeks in 1794, ostensibly to "escape the heat of the city," as he said; but no doubt a fear of the return of the fever was also a reason. On this occasion, Mrs. Washington and her two grandchildren, Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, accompanied the President to Germantown, and the young lad, whom Washington had adopted, was enrolled as a student at Germantown Academy.

It was quite natural that Washington should send the youth to the school. The previous year, he had had his lodgings beside the schoolhouse in the home of the master whose church on the Market Square he attended. The school was also sufficiently near the capital for the President to see the boy once in a while, and the surroundings were attractive. Furthermore, the President knew well many of those connected with the government of the school. "Squire" Ferree, at whose place he stabled his horses; Colonel Thomas Forrest, an old soldier; Henry Hill, a gentleman of prominence in the life of the city; and Colonel Isaac

Franks, his landlord, were some of the trustees Washington knew. And he may have read their advertisement. In the summer of this year, the school had made two additions to its faculty that the board held notable, and the school decided to share its pride with the public. Consequently, there appeared in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* on June 11, 1794, the following advertisement:

"Germantown Academy will be opened the 1st of July by F. Herman, from Germany; J. M. Ray, from Edinburgh, lately from Paris; and others; under the inspection of the Trustees. German and English Grammar, French, Latin, Greek, Hebrew and other Oriental languages, the Philosophical Sciences, and all branches of a common and liberal education, fitting for the various employments in life, will be taught on the improved plan, in the most expeditious manner, in a way both scientific and applicable to practice in human life; particular attention will be paid to the health and morals of youth; few places are so pleasant and healthful; it is six miles from Philadelphia."

Few, if any, schools today live up to that program; no doubt the "sales talk" reached Washington and he succumbed to it. For many years, the recollection of the great man's appearing at the Academy on horseback and inquiring for George Washington Custis was treasured in Germantown.

The boy's career at the school seems to have been uneventful, but one recollection of him there has survived. The aged Jesse Waln of Frankford, on a visit to the Morris House, then occupied by Samuel B. Morris who had purchased it in 1834, entered the tea-room in the southwestern part and sat lost in thought. When questioned by Mr. Morris and his sister, who had been in an adjoining room, he told them that his friend and classmate, George Washington Parke Custis, had taken him home to play one afternoon and that, upon Washington's invitation, he had stayed to tea in that room and talked with the President.

A rule passed at the school in 1794 indicates what sort of discipline the boy had. It was resolved as follows: "That the masters shall be respectively answerable for the conduct of their scholars, while going to and returning from school: that they shall not go into any field or orchard in the neighborhood of the school, without permission from the owner or tenant, but take the most public road leading to and from the same, and that the strictest order be observed in the government of the school, so that the master and scholars may profit thereby."

It was during the school year of 1794-95 that the "Public School of Germantown," the corporate name of the school to this day, was first called the "Academy." Colonel James Chambers, in applying for a place as a teacher of French, had his letter placed on the minutest of the Board of Trustees by its secretary, Colonel Isaac Franks, Washington's landlord; and, in that letter, he speaks of the school as an "academy." Curiously enough, as a result of this obscure incident, the school has been called so ever since.

(Continued on page 31)

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Germantown Friends School

BY SUSAN GOODMAN

"Friends Boarding and Day School for boys under the care of the Germantown Preparative Meeting . . . this institution, occupying capacious and airy buildings, presents desirable advantages, particularly to those who wish to place their children in the country for the summer season."

IN APRIL of 1845, when James K. Polk was President, and \$35 paid for three months' tuition and board at the school, this advertisement appeared in a Philadelphia Quaker magazine, *The Friend*. It came as the result of a gift by Isaac Jones, a member of the Germantown Meeting, to be used for "the promotion of a school in Germantown under the direction and control of the Meeting."

Since 1841, Charles Jones, a young graduate of Haverford College, had been running a school for boys on East Haines Street. His work had evidently come to the attention of the Germantown Meeting, for he was asked if he would care to turn his institution over to the supervision of the Meeting in return for necessary funds, as well as encouragement. Thus, the Germantown Friends School, one of the largest independent day schools in the East, came into being.

In its first year of existence, there were thirty-one pupils, all Friends, most of them receiving instruction only until they were old enough to go to one of the larger and older schools in Philadelphia. After several precarious years, the school moved from its pastoral setting on Haines Street to an equally pleasant site on the grounds of the Germantown Meeting. In 1850 a railroad from Philadelphia brought the growing community of Germantown closer to the city, for more people could now live in this suburb and commute to town. As the population increased, the school's attendance was raised. Soon girls were admitted and a college preparatory course was established.

Gradually, towards the end of the nineteenth century, a broadened admissions policy increased the number of non-Friends until they have come to be in the majority. They are, however, in sympathy with the ideals and aims of the school, and a great many are children of former graduates.

The Quaker testimony of "positive friendliness" or peace, regarding people of all races and creeds as equals in the sight of God, is a policy of the school, accepted by those connected with it. All the older students each week, and the younger students less

frequently, have always gone to a meeting for worship where they can meditate and feel free to speak if they wish.

The religious ideals on which school life is based have motivated a great many unusual projects. During the First World War, the founding, in Philadelphia, of the American Friends Service Committee to minister to the needs of those who had suffered in foreign lands brought an increase in the attention Friends have given to service of various kinds. Gradually this aim of Service has become important to all Friends' schools and colleges, Germantown Friends among them.

A large and energetic Service Committee has succeeded in carrying on many activities helpful to the community. Perhaps the most important of these is an affiliation with two schools in Falaise, France. These schools were destroyed during the war, and it was largely through the help of Germantown Friends that they have been re-established. During each of the past two years a student from Falaise has come to America to join the senior class. The affiliation has also resulted in exchanges of gifts and letters as well as examples of the creative work of each school. And, most important, many lasting friendships have resulted.

The School helped to found, and is an active member of, the Germantown Schools' Community Council, an organization to promote cooperation between all the educational institutions in the community and to help in community projects. For several years it has sponsored Saturday Work Camps, an enterprise in which students are able to work with underprivileged people in Germantown in making their houses more livable and to learn about their problems. A school engaged in activities such as these usually becomes aware of social problems and interested in possible solutions of them. Thus practical citizenship becomes a reality.

In a little over a hundred years, a school which started out with a very limited curriculum has become one with an extremely broad program, pioneering in many fields of education.

Until the turn of the century, very little thought had been given to physical education for pupils of younger age groups. There was no equipment for this and no staff especially trained in such a relatively new field. A gymnasium, built in 1902, was used by both boys and girls until the present boys' gym was constructed

in 1924. One playing field at Wissahickon Avenue and Coulter Street very soon seemed inadequate for the growing number of participants in outdoor sports. The acquisition of the Wistar Brown Field, a strip of land between School House Lane and Midvale Avenue, meant that the boys and girls would have separate fields, clubhouses, and tennis courts.

An early feeling that music and the drama should not be a part of the Quaker way of life had kept the School from any endeavors along these lines. As the School became more progressive in other areas, however, a music department developed. Vocal and instrumental training and the study of music as an art became available to students as part of the curriculum. In recognition of its work Germantown Friends received a large collection of fine recorded music from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a fund established for the diffusion of knowledge in educational institutions.

Recently the School choir of over eighty voices, the orchestra, and the modern dance group presented a panorama of music history entitled "O! Sing Your Songs." This production traced the roots of our contemporary American music through the great church works of Bach, the madrigals of the Elizabethan period, and the early Negro folk music in the South, to George Gershwin and today's musical theatre.

Musical activities are not restricted to the upper three classes. The Junior High School has its Glee Club and the Lower School has a choir and orchestra.

Every year a senior public speaking class presents, in "The Malvern Festival," a series of plays from early Greek tragedies to modern drama.

While most of the graduates of Germantown Friends School go on to college, its educational program is not centered on, or chiefly motivated by, the need to pass College Board examinations. Indeed, Stanley R. Yarnall, headmaster until 1941, and Burton P. Fowler, the present principal, have worked consistently for more liberal college entrance requirements. Several years ago the School was included in the Eight-Year Plan, a study conducted under a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, by which colleges were asked to admit students simply on the recommendations of the schools in the survey. These students, from all parts of the United States, were not required to take the College Board examinations and their progress in college was carefully recorded. The findings of this study were such that much more emphasis is now placed by colleges on school records and character than was the case previously.

It is interesting to note that an institution which was established for a restricted group of people, and one with a very limited curriculum, now offers a liberal course of study, numerous outside activities, and the opportunity to serve the community. The School still preserves, however, the basic religious beliefs of the Friends. It is directed, as in the past,

(Continued on page 28)

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ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

CHARLES F. JENKINS, president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, was, for the greater part of his life, publisher and editor of the *Farm Journal* and still takes a share in the editorship of that wide-y-read magazine. He was one of that group who at the beginning of this century saw the need for the preservation of old Germantown. He soon produced a book called "A Plea for Germantown's Historic Sites," the result was the founding of the Site and Relic Society, which was later called the Germantown Historical Society. Of this society Charles F. Jenkins was the first secretary, later the president, and is now the only honorary president.

For the society he wrote the "Guide Book to Historic Germantown." Other books of his on Germantown are, "Washington in Germantown," a large and a condensed edition, "Jefferson's Germantown Letters," "Lafayette's Visit to Germantown," and "Garden Stones," a book of poems. He is a noted collector of historical items; both of the historical societies with which he has been connected have profited by his valuable gifts.

He has also served as president of the International English Speaking Union, president of the American Chapter of the same union, president of the Buck Hill Falls Association, director of the Provident Trust Company, and vice-president of the Friends of the Wissahickon.

At Kitchen's Lane on his estate "Far Country" he has collected and grown the greatest variety of hemlocks ever gathered in one place. His hemlock arboretum is internationally famous and he is considered a world authority on that subject. Coming from a long line of early Pennsylvania Quakers and himself a member, Charles F. Jenkins has always encouraged and supported the work of the Society of Friends. In spite of his long busy life his unfailing attendance at "Meeting" has been a source of inspiration to others.

HORACE MATHER LIPPINCOTT, likewise comes of old Quaker stock; his family have been members of Abington Meeting since the days of its first establishment in 1682. He was also of that group which started the Site and Relic Society, of which he was director and later secretary. A graduate of the Germantown Academy and of the University of Pennsylvania he became known among the alumni of the latter institution as the editor of the Graduate Publications, which position he held for about forty years.

His published books are collectors' items, among

them are, "Early Philadelphia, People, Life, and Progress," "Colonial Homes of Philadelphia and its Neighborhood," and "Philadelphia" with foreword and illustrations by Thornton Oakley. Two of his latest books are "Narrative of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, with some account of Springfield, White-marsh, and Cheltenham Townships in Montgomery County," and "Abington Meeting and School, 1682-1949." He is President of the Old York Road Historical Society.

ELEANOR RITTER, the wife of Henry S. Ritter and the former Eleanor Gillespie, was born and grew up in Moorestown, New Jersey. She was educated at the Friends' Academy there and later attended classes at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Here she became interested in drawing the head, which led to her life work of portrait painting at which she is particularly successful in the use of pastels. Her work is well known throughout Germantown and Chestnut Hill. Mrs. Ritter is an active member of the National Society of Colonial Dames serving as secretary for Stenton Mansion which is under their care. She is also an active worker for the Upsala Foundation.

BRUCE JONES, a native of Germantown, was graduated from Haverford College in 1934 and received his Masters degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1938. From there he went directly to N. W. Ayers and Son, Inc., advertising agency, where he is now business manager of the Art Department. He is also chairman of the publicity committee of the Germantown Community Council and chairman of the school committee of the Green Street Friends' School at Greene Street and School House Lane, Germantown. He is married and has two children.

DR. JOHN FLAGG GUMMERE, head master of the William Penn Charter School was born at Swarthmore, Penna., and graduated at Haverford College in 1922 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received his Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1925 and later a Ph.D. and an Hon. M.A. from the same institution. Dr. Gummere is known as a teacher of Latin and Greek and is the author of "Workbook in Latin Comprehension" also of "Comprehension Readings in Secondary Year Latin," and co-author of "Latin Book Two," "Latin Book Three," "Using Latin" and other works.

He is a Phi Beta Kapa, a member of the Rotary Club, the Linguistic Society of America, Classical Association of the Atlantic States, the Headmasters Association, Secretary of the Country Day School Headmasters Association and the Educational Board, of which he is a member of the Executive Committee. He is a lecturer on the classics and holds a certificate as a result of his studies at the American Academy of Rome.

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ABOUT OUR AUTHORS (Continued)

MARGARET HALL SMITH, author of the poem, "A Philadelphia Story," is the wife of Lloyd Mellor Smith, a direct descendant of James Logan through his daughter, Hannah, who married John Smith. Mrs. Smith tells us that her poem is based on a story told to her by her father-in-law, Albanus Longstreth Smith, of Ivy Cottage, Germantown.

"Decades of Dress" is the interesting contribution of ELIZABETH M. MELLOR, a member of an old Germantown family. Mrs. Mellor has assembled, organized and managed the costume department at the Museum of the Germantown Historical Society. This collection is considered one of the finest and most complete in this area.

"Early Industries in Germantown" was written for senior research at Germantown High School by Miss KATHLEEN MASON.

A thumbnail history of "Germantown Friends School," was authored by sixteen-year-old SUSAN GOODMAN, an eleventh grader at Germantown Friends School.

WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

(Continued from page 17)

They are handwritten copies of *The Student's Gazette* which contained "advices both domestic and foreign" and which began publication in July, 1777.

A photostatic copy of the appointment of William Hudson, regarded "as a Discreet, Religious Person fit to succeed in the room and place of the said decedent" as an Overseer of the School, records the first election under Penn's last charter, that of 1711, which provided that the Overseers should be a self-perpetuating corporation. "The said decedent" referred to was Edward Shippen, former Mayor of Philadelphia.

Memories of a more recent date are preserved in the bronze tablet placed on the wall of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society building commemorating the fact that the School occupied that site from 1874-1925. In the School itself is the wrought-iron gate which stood before the doors of No. 8 South 12th Street. This gate was rescued from destruction and presented to the School by Arthur Bloch, of the Class of 1901. The venerable oak desk, used by Richard M. Jones in the old assembly room is still in use, though now painted white to harmonize with the Colonial architecture of the new assembly.

Philadelphia's outstanding independent schools are actually public schools which are operated at private expense. They seek to provide the best opportunities in education and to make the most of their freedom to select faculty members, and to admit students who demonstrate better-than-average academic ability. Thus Penn Charter may correctly be called a "public" school in the American sense, just as it was called by William Penn in the British sense.

A Philadelphia Story

BY MARGARET HALL SMITH

Have you ever heard the story told
Of the master of Stenton years ago,
One James Logan, not yet old—
And an Indian chief he used to know?

Friends they were, the Red, the White.
Each held the other in high esteem.
They had the thoughts that great men might,
And the dreams that great men dream.

It was an Indian custom then,
To take the name of an honored friend,
And so this chief was known to men
By an Indian-English blend.

But Logan said, "I cannot change
My name, for I am forced to sign
Officially. It would be strange
To add another name to mine.

But on my land there is a glade
Where water rushes over stone,
And flows along a pathway made
To echo every rippling tone.

And this fair stream shall bear your name
For it runs clean and strong and free,
As Red men were when White men came.
Wingohocking it shall be.

The village on the Delaware
Grew up and spread its arms about,
Until a city, pulsing there,
Crowded farm and woodland out.

Logan's vast estate was sold.
And now the garden, house and street,
Are all we ever can behold
Of where two friends were wont to meet.

And locked beneath imprisoned ground,
Forever hidden from the sun,
Beyond the range of sight or sound,
Wingohocking's waters run.

DID YOU KNOW—

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MONTHLY MEETINGS OF GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 1949-1950 monthly meetings of the Society, held at Vernon in Vernon Park, are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at 8:15 P. M. Speakers have accepted for the first six meetings, and we accordingly announce the following program:

Oct. 20—DONALD G. BROWNLOW, Graduate student of the University of Pennsylvania History Department, who has made a special study of Germantown History—"The Battle of Germantown."

Nov. 17—DR. FRANCIS S. RONALDS, Coordinating Superintendent for the National Park Service at Morristown National Historical Park—"Historic Houses on the Eastern Seaboard," illustrated.

Dec. 15—ARTHUR M. KENNEDY, Secretary and Librarian, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia—"Adventures of Captain Jonh Smith."

Jan. 19—HORACE MATHER LIPPINCOTT, Former Director, Secretary and Vice-President of our Society, will review one of his latest books—"Narrative of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia with Some Account of Springfield, Whitmarsh and Cheltenham Townships in Montgomery County."

Feb. 16—ERNEST HOWARD YARDLEY, well-known architect, who will present studies on "Congress Hall."

Mar. 16—JOHN W. JACKSON, Historian, who will endeavor to present a paper on Historic Market Square in Germantown, if sufficient material is available; otherwise he will speak on some other subject of general interest connected with Germantown history.

GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL

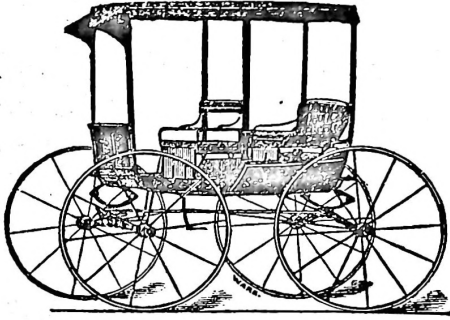
(Continued from page 23)

by a committee of members of the Germantown Meeting, and the contact between the committee and the parents has grown constantly closer. In 1945, the School celebrated its centennial. Hundreds of former students and old friends of the School returned for a three-day observance which centered around an extensive historical exhibit in the gymnasium, an open-house when classes were in session, a series of assembly programs, an afternoon of educational conferences on current problems, a public meeting addressed by Edwin Embree, Director of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, and finally an impressive meeting for worship on Sunday morning. At this service Rufus Jones and other distinguished Quakers spoke.

Then, as always, the central theme of the school was stressed as expressed in its motto on a seal designed by Violet Oakley: "Behold, I have set before thee an open door!"

EARLY INDUSTRIES

(Continued from page 12)



Germantown Wagon

Street. Then known as the Widow Mckinett Tavern, it was built by Daniel Pastorius, a descendant of the founder of Germantown, in 1748, and conducted by him until his death in 1754.

The King of Prussia Tavern was another popular early inn. It stood on Germantown Avenue just above School Lane, and the northern wall of the old Germantown Theatre was said to have been one of the inn's original walls. It was built about 1740, converted into an inn in 1763, and named in honor of Frederick the Great, about the time of his victories when his name and fame were world-wide. The sign, representing an equestrian figure of Frederick the Great, was painted by Gilbert Stuart, the famous artist. It was painted over later, probably during the Revolution because of hatred for the mercenary Hessian troops of Great Britain.⁷

The industries of Germantown have been many and varied. Its many streams made it suitable for all kinds of factories. A steam engine was not used to drive a mill, however, until about 1860, when William Stokes introduced this modern power in his mill on Church Lane.

Hat-making flourished about the year 1825. At one time brush hats were quite a fad in Germantown. They were made of the skin of a Russian rabbit, which cost from three to six dollars a pound. Beaver fur was worth from sixteen to twenty dollars a pound in the early days, but as it became scarce it advanced in price to seventy dollars a pound. It required about three ounces of fur to complete a hat. One style of hat in those days was worn almost the entire year.

Light weight carriages were manufactured in Germantown after the Revolution, and were much sought after. The most popular of them in later years was christened in honor of the place of its origin. Even today is to be found in the Standard Dictionary the entry, "germantown," with a small "g," and the definition: "a four-wheeled covered wagon drawn by one horse. It was first built in 1816 by J. C. Junkurth, at Germantown, Pa., for James Duval, of the same place."

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EARLY INDUSTRIES IN GERMANTOWN

(Continued from page 12)

By 1783, the centenary of its founding, Germantown had become a thriving village. Most of its old houses were built then or earlier. Enjoying schools, churches and market, it was a fashionable summer home for Philadelphians and destined soon to be the summer Capital of the United States.

Yet, as has been recorded in this quick survey, there had been a steady commercial development from the beginning. Thanks to its many natural facilities, such as water courses, Germantown became in the early days, an industrial center, and remains so today, as the great number of mills and business houses in the area testify.

¹ Jenkins, Charles F.: *Guide to Historic Germantown*, p. 21.

² Keyser, N. H.: *Old Historic Germantown*, p. 36.

³ Jenkins, Charles F.: *Guide to Historic Germantown*, p. 132; Keyser, N. H.: *Old Historic Germantown*, p. 40.

⁴ Jenkins, Charles F.: *Guide to Historic Germantown*, p. 141; Keyser, N. H.: *Old Historic Germantown*, p. 36.

⁵ Jenkins, Charles F.: *Guide to Historic Germantown*, p. 48; *Watson's Annals*, Vol. 2, p. 36; Keyser, N. H.: *Old Historic Germantown*, p. 14.

⁶ MacFarlane, J. J.: *Early Chestnut Hill*, pp. 53-54.

⁷ Keyser, N. H.: *Old Historic Germantown*, pp. 46-47.

OPENING OF THE MORRIS HOUSE

The Morris House Committee, having in charge the details incident to the ceremonies in opening and dedicating the Morris House, is being reorganized under the chairmanship of Dr. Gordon Venable, who will assemble the committee shortly to make necessary plans. A separate committee of women will be in charge of the management of the premises under a cooperative agreement with the Department of the Interior.

It has been decided to delay the formal opening until May or June of 1950, due to the facts that the completion date of the restoration work is uncertain and that weather conditions may not be too favorable for a formal opening in October or November.

Delay of the formal opening will not delay opening the House to visitors, however. As soon as restoration has been completed by the Department of the Interior and the House can be furnished and hostesses arranged for by the Women's Committee, the House will be open to visitors. The dates of the opening of the House for visitors and of the dedication ceremonies in the spring will be announced in ample time.

As previously announced the House will be furnished in authentic Eighteenth Century pieces loaned by the Morris family and The Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The Society wishes gratefully to acknowledge its indebtedness to G. Edwin Brumbaugh, architect, and Dr. Francis S. Ronalds, Coordinating Superintendent of the National Park Service, for their courtesies and interest in setting up our plan and helping our Society to win for Germantown a merited place as a mecca for tourists and the historically minded throughout the nation.

DECADES OF DRESS

(Continued from page 14)

In the last decades of the 19th century and the first of the 20th came with breath-taking rapidity the series of inventions which have changed fundamentally the pattern of living and given an entirely new tempo to the world of today. The telephone, the telegraph, electric lights, automobiles, radios, airplanes, are the foundation stones of modern existence and have come into active use within the memory of a man of seventy. Is it to be wondered that the world is a bit dazed!

With these vital changes in living the place of women in the scheme of things has changed too. In 1880 "woman's place was in the home" and teaching about the only outside occupation open to a girl. Women telephone operators almost caused a riot and the first women doctors were courageous pioneers. Of course today women lawyers, doctors, engineers, aviators, in fact, women in any occupation, are a matter of course.

Inevitably all this has brought a new feeling into fashion. The clothes of the 1930's and '40's have been growingly functional. Smart? Yes, and feminine (mostly), but comfortable and making for ease of movement.

A factor, too, not to be overlooked is the growing cult of natural physical beauty. Almost Greek is our devotion today to physical perfection. Think of the beauty contests!

Have women really learned a lesson from the past and discarded forever the binding and confining and torturing clothes of their forebears, or will we return to ruffs and bustles and stays? Fashion, and women, are unpredictable but let us hope that the efficient woman of today will leave a permanent legacy of physical freedom plus charm to her even more efficient and charming great granddaughters!

WASHINGTON SENT HIS BOY TO GERMANTOWN ACADEMY

(Continued from page 21)

George Washington Parke Custis was born at Mt. Airy, Maryland, on the 13th of April, 1781, the son of John Parke Custis and Eleanor Calvert, a descendant of Lord Baltimore. He was the grandson of John Custis, the first husband of Martha Washington. Owing to his father's early death, he was brought up by his grandmother and her husband, George Washington. He went to Princeton College and wrote several successful plays. He married Mary Lee Fitzhugh and built the mansion at Arlington, now the center of our National Cemetery. His daughter, Mary, married Robert E. Lee. George Washington Parke Custis died at Arlington on the 10th of October, 1857.

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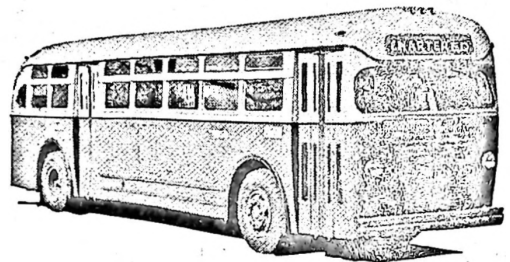
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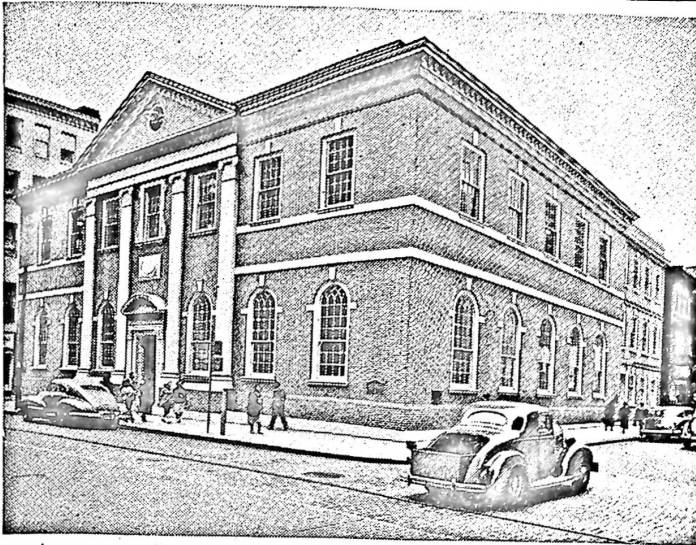
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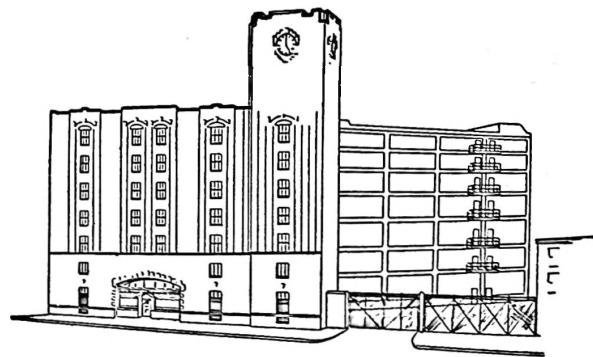
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