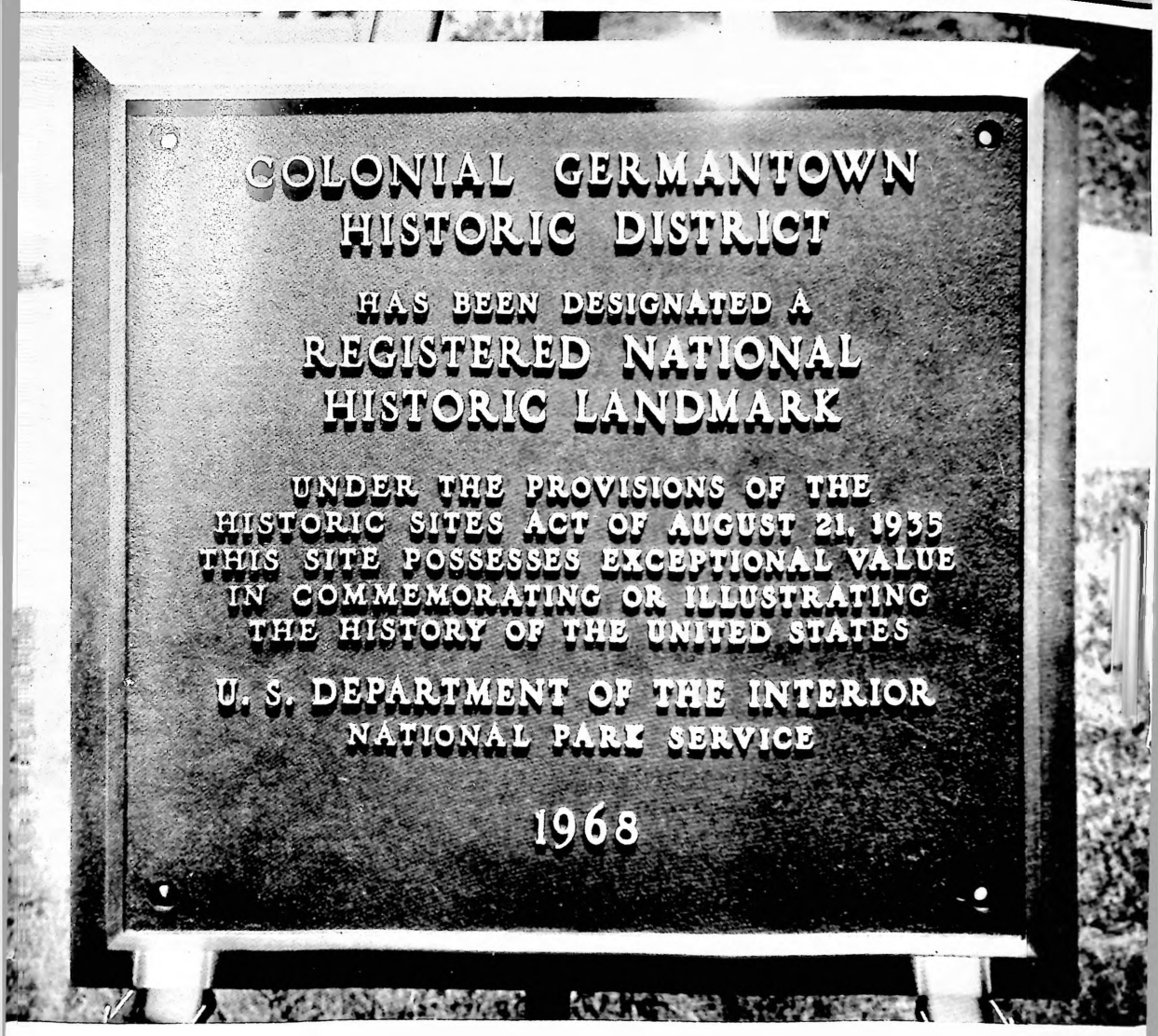
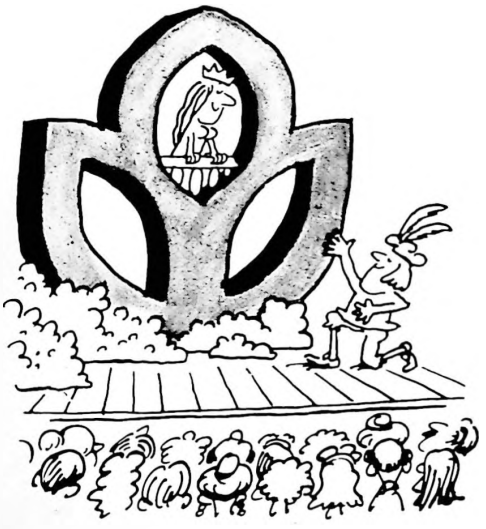
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See "LET'S TAKE A WALK" on Page 105

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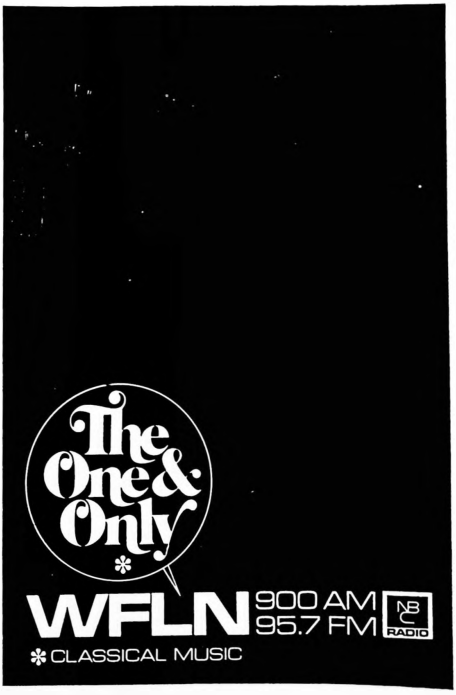
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GERMANTOWNE CRIER



Volume 24 **FALL, 1972** **Number 4**

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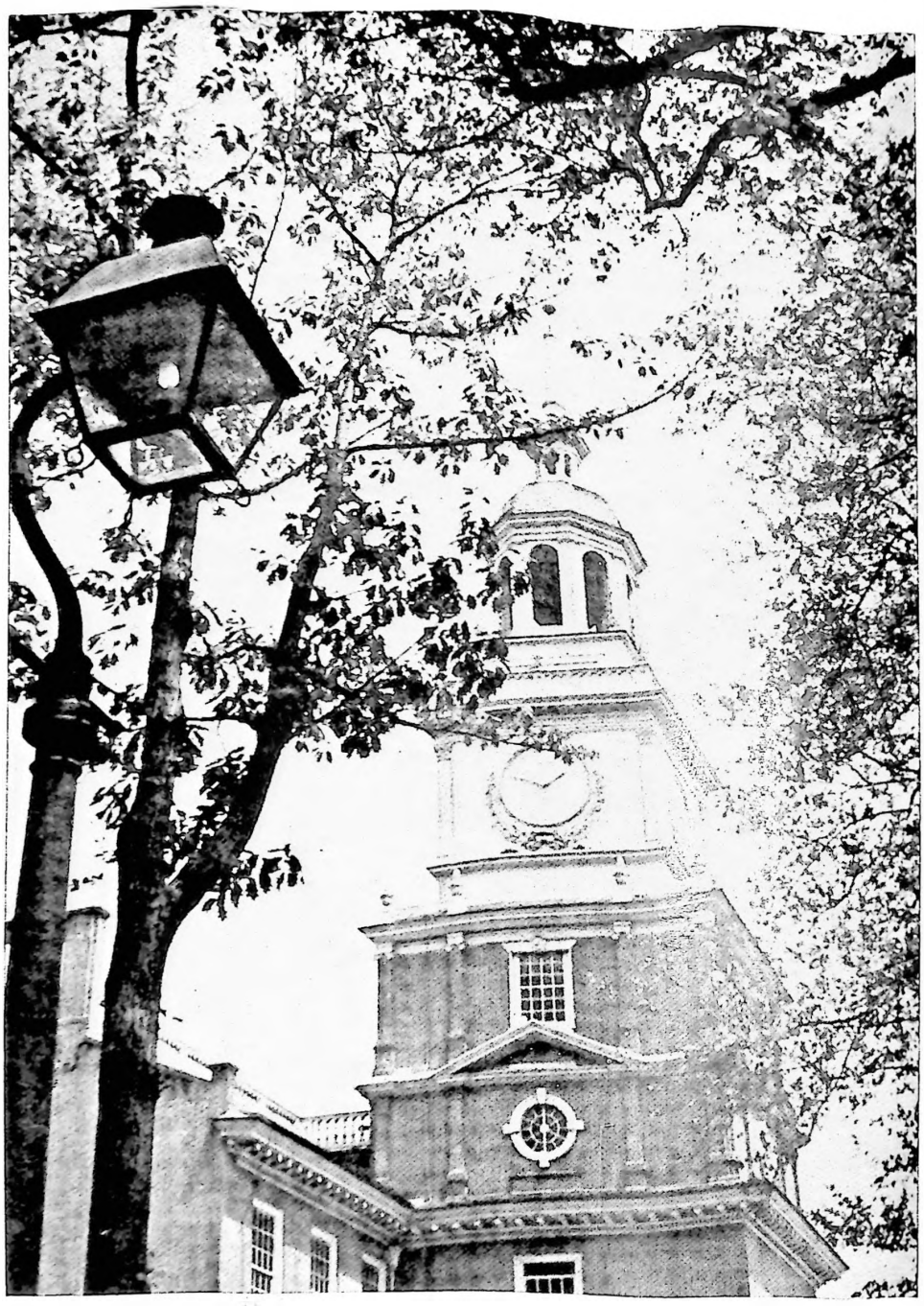
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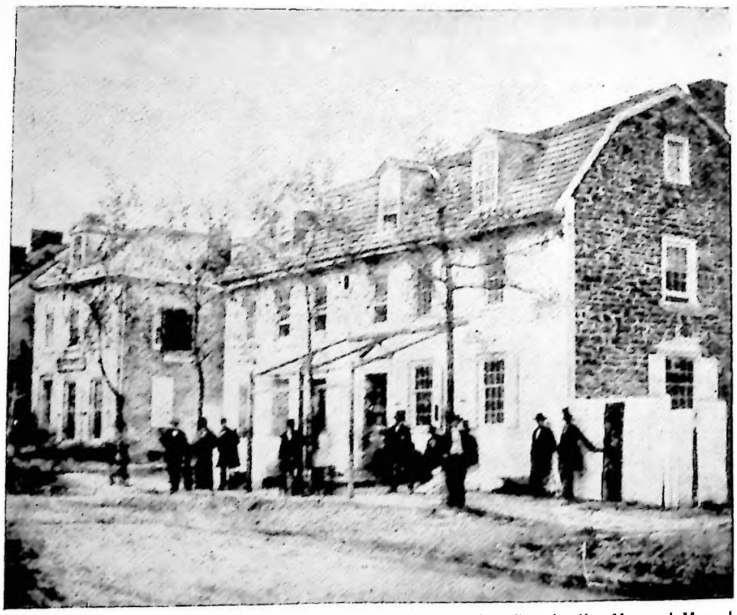
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Kirk & Nice is small building (with sign on front) at far left. Larger building in center of picture is old Washington Hotel. Narrow street separating two buildings is early Washington Lane.

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LET'S TAKE A WALK

By AMELIA N. FARR

This being the time of year to "explore," the author has attempted to call our attention to a few of the perhaps better-known "historic houses and buildings"—and to remind us of the many treasures in Germantown everyone can see and enjoy.

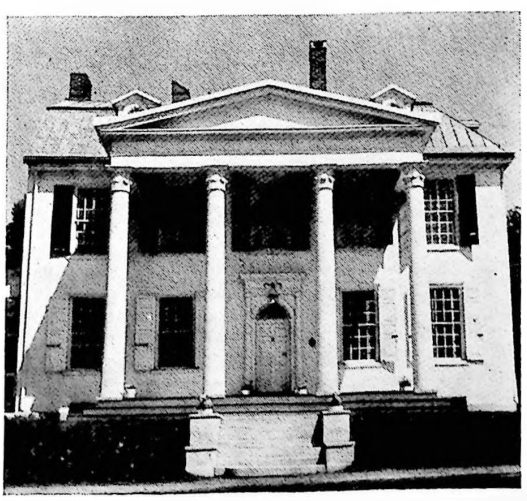
MANY have travelled this road from the time of the bare-footed Indians until the present day. Let us recall a few of the events that made Germantown Avenue a well-known part of history.

It was originally an Indian Trail and it was along this trail that William Penn allotted ground to Pastorius. When the thirteen original settlers arrived in Philadelphia from Germany in 1683 they had to live in caves along the Delaware until their lots were ready, but it soon became a settlement known as German Town.

By now the Indian Trail was "The Great Road," three miles long. It had but four cross roads: Queen Lane, School Lane, Rittenhouse Lane and Washington Lane.

The early families were a thrifty, hard working group of artisans and included weavers, printers, paper makers and farmers. In a short span of time Germantown became a thriving village. At first crude huts of logs were built but these were replaced by sturdy houses of stone. Many were so well built that one, demolished a short time ago, had to have dynamite used in the process.

Let us now wend our way along this "most historic street." Starting at Apsley Street, "Loudoun," high on the brow of the hill, was built in 1801. "Loudoun" has always been lived in by the Armat family. It was bequeathed by Thomas Armat's great, great, granddaughter, Maria Dickinson Logan, to the City of Philadelphia. Legend has it that had the Capitol of the United States remained in Philadelphia, the Capitol buildings would have graced this hill.



Loudoun (1801)

Walking a short distance northward are the Mehl (1760) (The barn at the back houses the Germantown Theater Guild) and Ottinger (1781) houses. These are still beautiful and loved by their owners. A few more paces and we approach the Lower Burial Ground. Jan Streepers donated the land and the graves of the early settlers are here.



Thones Kunders or Thomas Kunder House
(5109 Germantown Avenue)

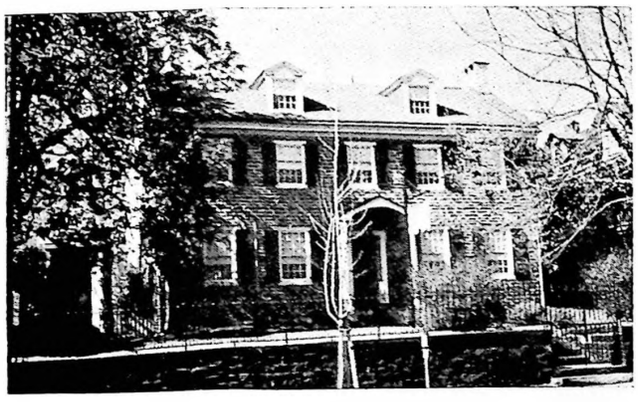
In 1688 Thones Kunder lived on Germantown Avenue near what is now Manheim Street. It was here the first proclamation against slavery was drawn-up and ratified. These sturdy men did not believe in slavery—they wanted equal work and equal rights.

A house built by George Royal (1747) hides behind a store front but still retains the original staircase and fireplace.

Let's cross the street here to another Royal house that could, with someone's love for this 18th Century house, be reclaimed. The James Barron house is also asking for someone to love and care for it. A Wister house (No. 5140), in the second story of its barn, is where Gilbert Stuart painted the portrait of George Washington. This portrait has been used endlessly on our One Dollar bills. The house has been lost in the passage of time but the United States currency portrait stays on.

Directly across the street, on the east side, is the Fraley House, now preserved as the parish house of St. Stephens Church.

The Baynton House, the Conyngham-Hacker House and the Howell House are three early houses now owned by the Germantown Historical Society. In them are many relics and mementos of our an-



Conyngham-Hacker House (1772)

cestors. The Baynton House is the library, just bulging with early prints, books and records on early Germantown. In the Conyngham-Hacker House are wonderful collections of furniture, china, early tools, as well as fire fighting equipment. In the Howell house are toys and textiles. All three houses contain artifacts used in our forefathers' everyday living.

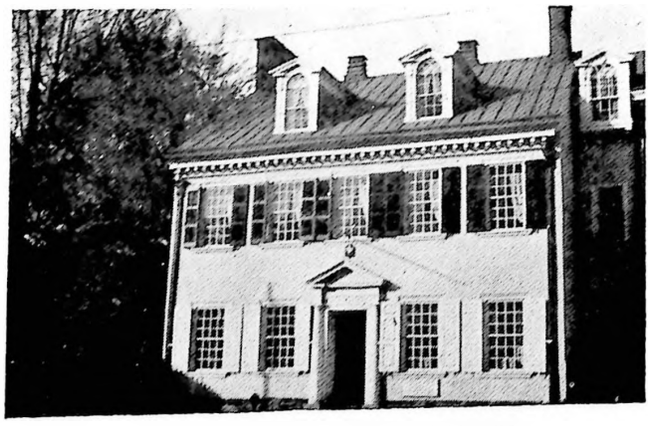
A step farther north is the Bechtel House. John Bechtel was a staunch Moravian. Quite recently this house, built in 1742, was presented to the Historical Society of Germantown.

At Germantown Avenue and Queen Lane stands the Christopher Sauer House, also Trinity Lutheran Church. In this house, in 1743, Sauer printed the first Bible in this country.

Grumblethorpe, built by John Wister and known as "Wister's Big House" because at the time it was built, in 1744, it was the largest house in Germantown. General Agnew of the British Army, who was mortally wounded in the Battle of Germantown, died in the parlor. Blood stains are still in evidence.

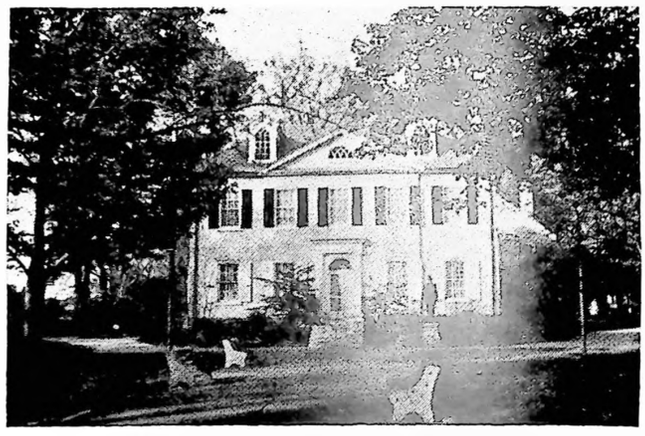
The Clarkson-Watson House, almost next to Grumblethorpe, is presently the home of the Germantown Historical Society's Costume Museum. Thomas Jefferson was a guest here when George Washington lived at the Deshler-Morris House. John Fanning Watson wrote "Watson's Annals" while living here and at one time during the American Revolution, it was used as the Bank of the United States.

Every town had a Village Green or Market Square in the 18th Century. Ours was a very busy place with market sheds, hay scales, fire house and jail, and was located on Germantown Avenue between Church Lane and School Lane. Several 18th Century houses, still in pristine condition, surround this Square—the Bringhurst House, the Fromberger House, and most famous, the Deshler-Morris, built by David Deshler in 1772–3. It became the headquarters of General Howe in 1777.



Perot-Morris-Deshler House (1772–73)

After the Revolution, in 1793–1794 George Washington, then President of the United States, came to Germantown—the first time because of the Yellow Fever epidemic. The second time he came because it was a pleasant place to be. He held two Cabinet Meetings in the Morris House and worshipped at the Market Square Presbyterian Church (formerly German Reformed). We were indeed honored to have had the President of the United States living in our community, with his family.



"Vernon" occupied by John Wister and his son John—1812 to 1883

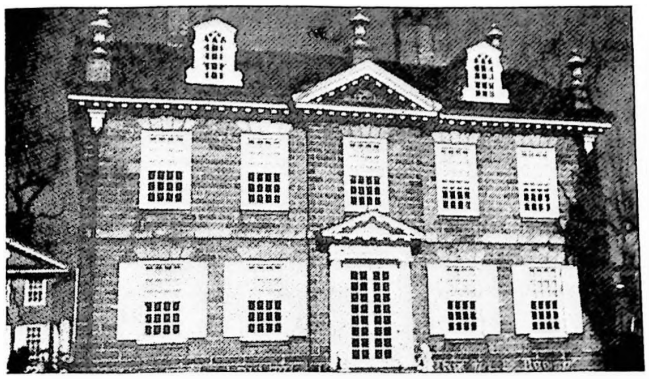
Our walk continues after we pass Germantown and Chelten Avenues and see the signs of both progress and change. We come to Vernon Park to see a lovely house built in 1803. It was later lived in by John Wister. A bronze figure of him stands in front of the house. Also, on the north corner of the Park is a granite monument of Pastorius and the thirteen original settlers.

Farther north, on the west side of this once rambling "Indian Trail" are three or four houses completely hidden by commercial facades. And then comes Town Hall, a recent building which replaces the one used during the Civil War as a hospital.

At Walnut Lane amid a beautiful garden, in which many of the plants are descendants of original plantings, stands Wyck. Part of Wyck was built in 1690 and nine generations of the Haines family have lived there. Reuben H. Haines, in the early 18th Century, was greatly involved in the paving of the Germantown Turnpike, as Germantown Avenue was known during this period.

Across the street from Wyck stands the Green Tree Tavern. This was built by Daniel Pastorius in 1740 and is now owned by the Methodist Church.

We now progress to the Mennonite Meeting House.



Cliveden (1763–64)



Upsala (1798)

The present Church was built in 1770 replacing an earlier one. Original pews remain in use.

The Johnson House at Washington Lane was built by Dirck Jansen in 1765–1768 and still bears marks of the fierce battle (Battle of Germantown) fought a block away. It is today owned by the Germantown Woman's Club.

Across the street just above Washington Lane is the Revolutionary Concord School House. This was used as the town voting place and was witness to many political contests and combats.

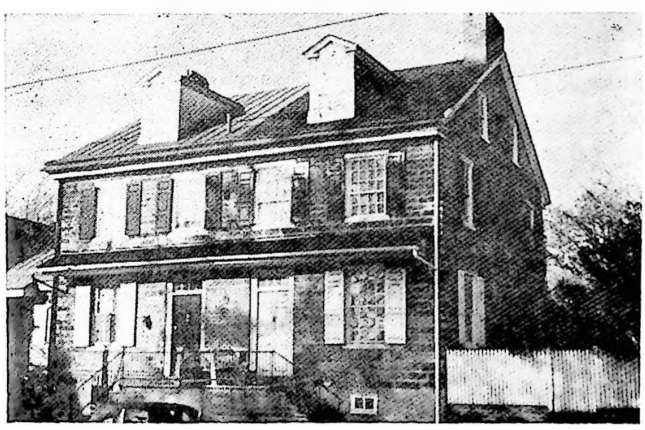
We now come upon the site of the Battle of Germantown. "Cliveden," built in 1763 by Chief Justice Benjamin Chew, was the center of this famous battle. The British occupied it and used it as a fort.

On that foggy morning of October 4, 1777 George Washington, with his army, fatigued by the Battle of the Brandywine, marched from Whitemarsh. His strategy was well planned but additional British reinforcements and the fog completely dimmed any chances his brave men had, and the battle was lost. George Washington commanded his troops from the steps of Jacob Billmeyer's house at the corner of Upsal Street. On the west side of Germantown Avenue is "Upsala." This house was not there at the time of the battle. In fact, the American cannons were entrenched on what is now the front lawn.

Crossing Upsal Street we see a quaint little house known as "Sparrow Jack's" house. It seems John Bardsley was sent to England in the 1860's to bring back sparrows to eat the caterpillars plaguing the area at the time. He became known as "Sparrow Jack."

We are near the end of our walk and can "peek" through an iron fence at a sturdy stone building set back in a grassy plot. It is the Church of the Brethren, built in 1770. This is the Mother Church of this sect in America.

There is much, much more to the story of "Historic Germantown" but because of what we have just seen, and more we have not seen, of our history that has lived through the years of progress and change, the United States Department of the Interior has certified OUR Germantown Avenue as a "National Historic Landmark." It is the first street in the nation to be so named.



Billmeyer House



Pastorius Monument in Vernon Park

[1] *"Old Germantown Houses" written by Judge Harold D. Saylor, our Society's President, which appeared in the* "CRIER"—*Volume 10, No. 4 (December, 1958) gives more detailed accounts of the houses in some instances and a longer list. You may wish to refer to your file copy.* *Editor*

[2] *An account of the bronze plaque (dated 1965—officially presented May 18, 1966) to one of Germantown's best known and greatly admired historic houses "STENTON" is also covered in this "current" issue.* *Editor*

A Map of
Historic Germantown
Designed by J. Riegel, Jr.

This detailed map, elaborated with numerous sketches, shows the locations of streets, historic buildings, churches, etc. It is replete with data concerning local people, places, and events.

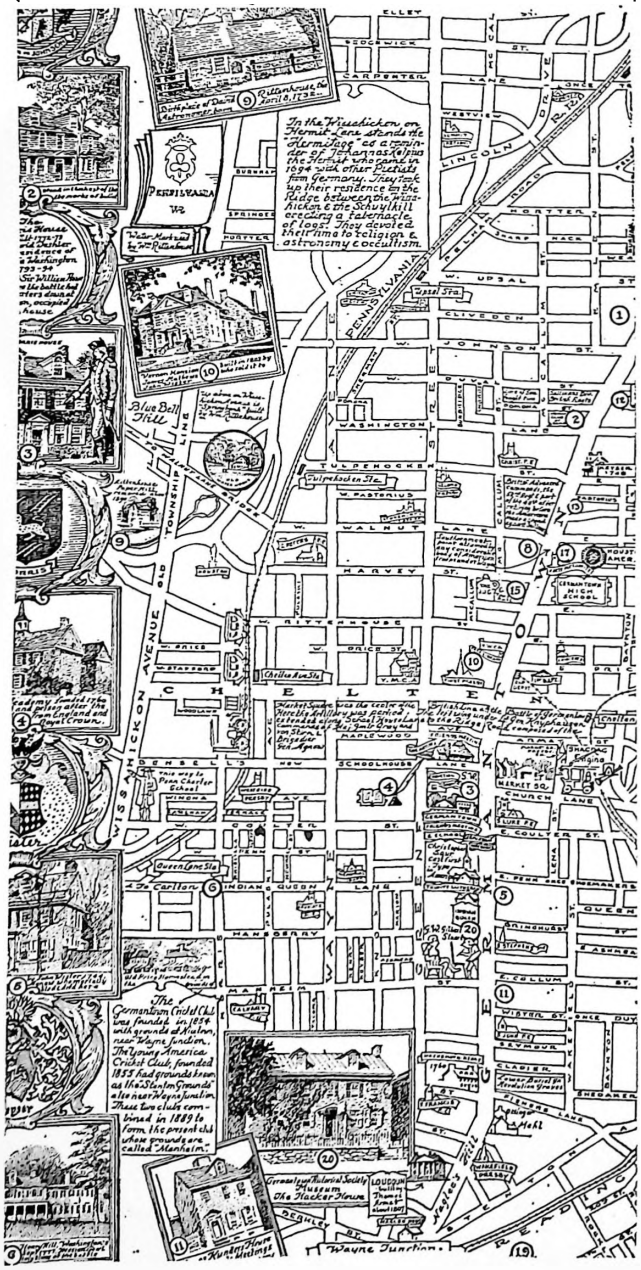
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Someone remarked to Will Rogers that Webster spoke perfect English. To which Will responded: "Well, so could I, if I wrote my own dictionary."

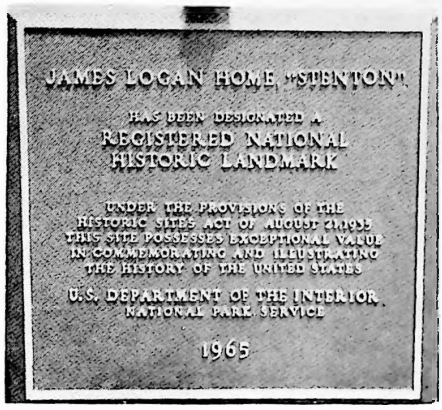
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JOHN J. AUDUBON'S first home in America (Father's estate), Mill Grove, Montgomery County (began his series of bird paintings here).

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MOTHER BETHEL A.M.E. Vhurch, 419 South 6th Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

OLD CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT, Between Independence Mall State Park and Front Street, vicinity between Pine and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

SOUTHWARK DISTRICT, East of 5th Street north of Washington Avenue, south of Lombard, west of Front Street; with sections extending to River to Delaware Avenue and south of Catherine Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

SOUTH FRONT STREET DISTRICT, From 700 to 712 South Front Street west side, Bainbridge to Kenilworth Streets, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

THE ATHENAEUM OF PHILADELPHIA, 219 South 6th Street (East Washington Square), Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

THE CLIFFS, East Fairmount Park, near 33rd Street above Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE, 858 North Broad Street (Southwest corner Broad and Poplar), Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

THE MONASTERY, Fairmount Park, Foot of Kitchen's Lane at Wissahickon Creek, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

THE RANDOLPH HOUSE, East Fairmount Park, overlooking East River Drive, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

WISTER'S BIG HOUSE, 5267 Geriantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

WOODLAND TERRACE DISTRICT, 501–519-500–520 Woodland Terrace, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

WIDOW MALOBY'S TAVERN, 700 South Front Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

NATHANIEL IRISH HOUSE, 702 and/or 704 South Front Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

ORTHODOX MEETING HOUSE, Birmingham Road, Southeast of the Intersection of 15087 and Pennsylvania Route 926 (Street Road), West Chester, Chester County.

Taken from Pennsylvania Heritage
Vol. 5 No. 2 Harrisburg, Pa. Summer 1972

The Melting Pot—America

By Doris F. Ritzinger

WE OFTEN speak of our early settlers, mostly as a group, but today most of us are indeed a composite of different nationalities, backgrounds and religions.

The best known reason for the coming of the settler to America was religious freedom, but there were other reasons as well—one of the most important: the desire to own land, and to better the position of the family.

In Europe, the feudal system was still in effect, and in England, while land could be purchased, by English law the land was inherited by the eldest son. Some Englishmen did not agree with this law, and wanted all their sons to share equally.

Traces of Scandinavian occupancy have been found in America, but appear to be largely legendary, and has no large part in our history.

The first great settlement was by the English. They first came to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. The Church of England was predominant throughout Virginia for many years. The Pilgrims came to Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620, and shortly thereafter the Puritans came to the Boston area. Englishmen settled along the Connecticut and Long Island coasts. Some of these people were seafaring, always migratory, and might be found elsewhere in a few years. New England was mostly Anglican in feeling. Maryland was settled by English Catholics. West Jersey and Pennsylvania were settled by the Quakers at the time of William Penn. Charleston, South Carolina, settled by the English, was the most important city in the South in the mid 17th century. Georgia was settled mostly by debtors who were from all walks of life. It is difficult for us to realize there were possibly 5000 people in Pennsylvania before the arrival of William Penn. There was little activity by the English beyond the Allegheny Mountains before 1763.

Spain owned Florida, and was settled by the Spanish, previous to the settlement of New England and Virginia by the English.

There were French settlements along the St. Lawrence River in Canada, near Quebec, about the same time as Jamestown and Plymouth were settled. The French got along well with the Indians and were able to go farther than the English. Detroit was settled before the end of the 17th century. There were trading posts at Mackinac Island and St. Ignace, Michigan, and by 1800, at Green Bay, Wisconsin. Some went down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Before the Revolution, there were French settlements at St. Louis, St. Genevieve and other nearby places. The French Hugenots came to America after 1685, and settled in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and the Carolinas. Another group of French, largely Catholic, came at the time of the Revolution in France, 1789, and the Black Rebellion in San Domingo. Some of these families later returned to France.

The Dutch had come up the Hudson River by the 17th century. They also settled the south Delaware River. They had two trading posts in New York, one at Albany and one at Manhattan. On the Delaware River, they had a trading post at Gloucester, New Jersey, and one at Lewes, Delaware. The largest settlements of the Dutch were in the Hudson Valley and New Amsterdam. Most were Dutch Reformed.

The Swedes had an early trading post at Christiana, Delaware, now Wilmington. They moved up the Delaware River toward Philadelphia. There were Swedish settlements at Penn's Neck, New Jersey, Tinicum Island, Marcus Hook, Upland (now Chester), and Southwark, in Philadelphia. A small settlement was in Tacony, Pennsylvania, and another at Palmyra, New Jersey. They also went up the Schuylkill River to above where Pottstown is now located. Along the way they established their Swedish Lutheran Churches. The Finns, Norwegians and Danish are also included in this category.

Many of the people from Wales became Baptists. They came to America about the same time as the Hugenots. They settled in the Welsh Tracts, near Merion and Gwynned, Pennsylvania, also Chester County, Pennsylvania and in Delaware.

There were a few Scotch in New England very early, and some in the vicinity of Perth Amboy, Monmouth County, New Jersey. The Ulstermen or Scotch-Irish from Northern Ireland, mostly Presbyterians, came to America in the early 1700's. We call them Scotch-Irish, but they were really Scotch. They had been sent to settle Northern Ireland by James I. They did not intermarry with the Irish. Many of the Scotch-Irish landed at Philadelphia. They settled in the outlying western counties on the frontier.

A small group of Germans and Hollanders came to

Pennsylvania in 1683 and settled Germantown, the year after the arrival of William Penn. They were mostly Anabaptists or Mennonites and Quakers. In 1709 a group of Palatine Germans arrived in New York from England and settled in the Schoharie Valley, New York. Many of these families later came down to the Berks County region of Pennsylvania. By 1732 to 1740 large numbers of Palatine Germans had come to Philadelphia seeking good farm land. They spread into the counties of Lancaster, part of Bucks, Berks and westward. Swiss settlers were also included in this group. Some of the French Hugenots settled in the same regions. In a short time they were all known as the Pennsylvania Dutch—Dutch being derived from Deutsch, meaning German, which explanation was soon forgotten. The religion of the Palatines was: 1st Lutheran; 2d Reformed; 3d Mennonite. Smaller sects were the Amish, Brethren, Dunkards, Moravians and Schwenkfelders. Some of them were Baptist type religions. The second large German migration was in 1848. Military service was compulsory and they did not want to serve in the Prussian army. Most of this group settled farther west. Various religions.

The largest migration of Irish Catholic families from Southern Ireland came in the mid 1800's—1845, 1846, 1847—due to the great potato famine in Ireland. There had been another migration between 1820 and 1830, due also to a famine, but it was small in comparison. Most of the Irishmen had been farmers, but they settled in the large cities here. As they had been trained for agriculture, and had no trades, they were poorly fitted for city life. Many of them worked as laborers, building the railroads, canals, etc. to survive.

At the time of the Gold Rush, many Chinese, as well as other Orientals, came to California.

People from the Southern European Countries came to America after 1870, adding a variety of nationalities and religions. (Balkans, etc.)

The Italians, mostly Roman Catholics, came in large numbers up to 1914.

The emigration of Poles, Czechs and Jews, from the Ukraine in Russia, began about 1890 and continued to about 1914. They settled mostly in urban cities.

Closer to the present, about 1933, there was a large migration of Germans, German Jews, and those from adjoining countries.

Due to the Hungarian uprising in 1956, Hungarians who could, came to America.

Through the years, people of many nationalities of various religious beliefs—from all stations in life, royal to peasant—came to America.

We are truly a polyglot nation, and proud of it.

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Seminar:
Dr. John C. Coddington

Publications of the Germantown Historical Society

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

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Childhood Memories of My Walks Along Germantown Avenue from Penn Street to Chelten Avenue Sixty Years Ago

By Miss Abbie French

BEGINNING just below Penn Street on the east side of Germantown Avenue was Siefkin's fine meat market—at the first block Mr. Siefkin, Sr.—at the second his son, Tom, as he was affectionately known to the customers. Just north of Siefkin's was Misses Thoma's millinery shop, where one could get the very latest in millinery or have an old hat "modernized." On the southeast corner of Penn Street Gene Kniley dispensed drugs, kindness to people in need and a call to his pay station 'phone for people unable to afford a 'phone of their own. Across the street was Winstanley's men's hat store, Young's candy and ice cream parlor, run by Mr. & Mrs. Young, Sr. and on the southwest corner Senyard's saloon, which, I was told, gave a free lunch with the purchase of a five cent glass of beer. You could observe neighborhood children stooping down to look under the swinging doors to see how many pairs of feet they could count, lined up at the bar.

Going on up the "Avenue" as it was then always referred to, Cottage Row on the east side, was a delight to see—small well-cared-for houses set well back from the street and slightly terraced. Then came Scully's fine restaurant, which proudly displayed a small fountain just inside the entrance. A little farther on, Harkinson's dining room, less modern, but noted for its good food for many years. Across the street in that same block was Brandau's men's tailoring shop, Miss Will's stationery store and the Manheim Laundry, which is still in existence but quite different these days—a stone watering trough out front gave tired horses a refreshing drink when they and their weary drivers returned after a long day delivering and collecting laundry. Oestmann's Hardware store was on the southwest corner of Coulter Street and Germantown Avenue, with a small red umbrella swinging above the door to advertise the fact that he even fixed umbrellas. "Jimmie" Jones, of course, was the place little girls got their hair ribbons either to match a dress or harmonize with it because "Jones had the finest hair ribbons in town." Across the street on the west side was Staton's lovely Art Store, a treasure trove of beauty and the best place in town to get a picture framed. My memory is hazy about the rest of that block until we come to Market Square where we always gathered on Memorial Day when a salute was fired over the head of the statue in memory of the Civil War dead. The Harkness House, which now houses Germantown Insurance Company, was used by the first Germantown High School, which was for girls only, for its gym classes. On the southeast corner of Germantown Avenue and Church Lane stood Thomas, the Tailor's establishment. It was always a thrill to see him and Mrs. Thomas start out for a Sunday buggy ride with their lovely team of matched horses. The Germantown Savings Fund was built of fine granite, quite similar to the Germantown National Bank right across the street. One could open a savings account for as little as 10c.

North of the National Bank, now Girard Trust Bank, were several small houses (I can't remember how many) and in the first one a Mr. Thackera mended bicycles—I used to take mine to him! These were torn down to make way for enlarging the Bank and the building of the Germantown Theater, which was quite the latest in architecture. For five cents on Saturday afternoon children could laugh at Charlie Chaplin's antics, thrill to Mary Pickford and shudder at the terrifying Lon Chaney films. During the early days of Amos and Andy the Management put a radio in the center of the stage in order to get people out because they began staying away from the seven o'clock show in order to listen to this program at home.

A little farther up the block was a small house, set well back from the street and fronted by a board fence with several boards off to allow entrance—it was MacVaugh's and I can't remember whether it was a milk depot or oyster house. Next door, at the corner of Maplewood and Germantown Avenue was a lovely white house occupied by a doctor. Every Spring the small front porch was almost covered by a red climbing rose. It was later torn down to make way for a new building, which housed the UGI offices. One paid the gas bill on the first floor.

In this same block on the east side was Potterton's china shop—packed to the rafters with lovely china and glass. Next door was a small grocery store run by a kind-hearted woman, who just seemed to know who could pay and who needed, but could not. It made no difference to her who or what you were, she always helped anyone in need. Over both these adjoining stores was a corrugated iron awning which

permitted the display of china and green groceries on stands on the pavement. Cherry's Shoe store was a landmark worthy of fond memories to me because all my shoes were purchased there and once I had a pair of patent leather slippers which cost $5.00! Still going north on this side of the street was Dr. Venable Sr.'s optical shop.

Moving on to the next block, at the northeast corner of Armat was McKinney's tea and coffee house. One entered, in warm weather, through a door-way protected by lovely rustling bead portières to the most heavenly of smells—great bags of freshly roasted coffee just ready for the grinder and you could select your own combination of teas—my Mother's choice was always Imperial Green and Uncolored Japan! Never have I heard of either since. Then came Mr. Asher's retail store and, to the delight of the children, and many older people, a week or so before Easter he had two women sitting in the window dipping and decorating chocolate Easter eggs. How good they looked and how wonderful that corner smelled.

Across the street at the northwest corner of Maplewood Avenue was J. J. Pletcher's grocery store, with lots of fruit and vegetables displayed on stands on the pavement in good weather. Going farther up in this same block was the Chelten Trust Company, set well back from the pavement line. Then came a couple of red brick houses with white marble steps, typical of Philadelphia in those days, in one of which a Dr. Culbertson, Dentist, lived and had his office. On the southwest corner of Chelten Avenue Smyser & Scott dispensed drugs. In the same block, on the east side of the Avenue, Rowell's had their beginnings in Germantown and McGray and Hunter had a large "green grocery" store where one could get real bargains if one waited until after 8 o'clock on Saturday night. Without refrigeration produce could not be carried over until the following Monday.

On the southeast corner of Chelten Avenue the Germantown Trust, with its recessed entrance, made a welcome refuge from bad weather for people waiting for the route 23 and 19 trolley cars going north. Across Chelten Avenue, on the northeast corner was the Post Office and on the northwest corner Chas. J. Schaeffer's real estate office—one entered right off the street through a little wicket gate. Beyond Schaeffer's the first venture in a moving picture house began in Germantown—I've long since forgotten the name of the man who started it but I do remember his audience sat on small folding chairs. Beyond that was Mitchell and Fletcher's grocery and produce store, which catered to the "carriage" trade—then, of course, came Vernon Park, which was clean, well cared-for and a safe place, night or day to wander through and enjoy!

I may be slightly off in some of my locations and spelling of names but I hope to be forgiven. Time has a way of dimming childhood memories. A. F.

Some Places of Business Operating in Germantown As Late As 1935

How many do you remember?

Johnny Rose	Bicycles
Oestmann's	Hardware
Harkinson's	Ice Cream
Elva Smith	Fine Dresses
Carson's	Engraving and Stationery
Robert Staton	Music and Books
Cherry's	Shoes
McKinney's	Tea and Coffee
Darrow's	Paints
Smyser and Scott	Drugs
Asher's	Ice Cream and Candy
Jas. J. Pletcher	Grocery
Mitchell and Fletcher	Grocery
Trower	Caterer
Mrs. Wills	Notions
Hug	The Barber
B. B. Lister	Real Estate
McCray and Hunter	Fruit and Vegetables
Kyle	Moving and Storage
Marple	Furniture and Undertaker
Wetherstein	Antiques
Brown and Baucher	Furs
Matthieu	Cabinet Maker
Ludwig	Movers, Storage, and Restorers
Foley	Livery Stable
Wilkie	Livery Stable
Thoma Sisters	Hats
Charles Y. Scully	Restaurant
Thomas	The Tailor
Fischer's	Jewelry
Hasting's	Flowers
Potterton	China
Hennig's	Paints

Compiled by Mrs. M. Bacon Bostwick
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The Bandbox of Bygone Days

By Doris F. Ritzinger

THE bandbox of olden times was a product of a changing era in our American way of life. As personal possessions became more numerous, the bandbox fulfilled storage needs, and as people went more frequently from place to place, they became "carryalls."

The boxes were generally oval or round in shape, made of thin, split or sawed wood, sometimes left plain, but more frequently decorated or covered with wallpaper. They were used in great quantity and variety in America, but there were some in other countries as well.

The name "bandbox" was derived from its first use, as the box held bands used in early dress. Both men and women stored, and carried with them, their elaborate starched ruffs, like the ones we see in old portraits. When the stiff ruffs went out of fashion, men adopted a soft, flat lace collar.

In 1662, Samuel Pepys' diary mentioned that he put on his first lace band, which set off everything in his costime.

The narrow linen band, similar to the cleric collar of today, came next in fashion.

Storage was a problem in the small home as closets were narrow and few. In fact, many rooms had no closets at all and wooden pegs were placed at intervals along the wall. At that time clothes were not plentiful —a woman usually had only three dresses, one for "best"; one for "second best"; and one for "every day." Shawls, which hung easily on pegs, were used in place of coats. Bandboxes were now used to store bonnets, huge calaches with their wired accordion folds, and down-filled satin pumpkin hoods. Men's hats were stored in them too.

The ladies used the bandboxes for the storage of ribbons, hair pieces, artificial flowers, dresses, jewelry, as well as bonnets, and the large miscellany of things so dear to the feminine heart.

Bandboxes in their progressive sizes were the forerunners of the nested or self-storing luggage considered so new, so smart today. The period of the greatest popularity of the bandbox was the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

New forms of transportation; the steamboat, the canal boat, and the railroad train, were being promoted all over the country. At the same time, there was a change in the nation's economic development. The cotton gin had been discovered, women's labor was accepted in the factories. There was an abundant amount of raw cotton separated from the seeds, ready for spinning into textiles. Mechanical improvements had been made to the spinning frames and jennies. Steam and water power made looms easier to run.

Jobs formerly performed by strong men, now could be done by young girls. Women swarmed to the textile centers, and with part of their pay, purchased pretty, stylish clothes.



Doris Ritzinger's Band Box

Containers were necessary to protect these new wardrobes and bandboxes were needed for frequent trips home. Bandboxes were luxuries every girl could afford. Large ones cost fifty cents, small ones, twelve cents.

Another section of our population was also ready for travel at this time. The wars were over and hard-working middle class Americans decided it was time to "find culture," and pay homage to the various

shrines of our country. First-class hotels sprang up and almost everyone could afford a short holiday, or make an excuse to go to the city on business. Americans discovered our native scenery. The Northern Tour became immensely popular. "Traveler's Guides" all over the country urged travel. Thus the need for bandboxes.

It seems strange that fragile trifles, such as the paper-covered bandboxes, have lasted all these decades. But if there was a space in the attic or a closet, the bandbox still served its purpose as a place to store one's treasures, and so was protected and preserved.

Bandboxes were lined with newspaper, usually of the locality where the box was made. It is fun to read the advertisements and news items. And if one can find a date on the newspaper it practically tells us the age of the box.

Wallpaper usually covered the outside of the bandbox. There were many, many designs and classifications. To name a few: transportation, beasts, birds, serpents, things of the sea, scenic, historical, fruits and flowers, romantic and classical, and many more.

How fortunate that the old and beautiful wallpapers have been preserved for us, really a history of wallpaper in itself, on the delightful and charming old bandbox.

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Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Buzzard, who are members of the Rittenhouse Family, presented the stone piece from over the doorway of the Rittenhousetown Baptist Chapel, 1869. This Chapel was on Rittenhouse Street opposite the spring in The Park.

The framed citation of Dr. Samuel Gilliland, Surgeon during the War of 1812 for Valor, signed by President Madison, was presented by Mrs. James Gilliland.

Fine old pictures of Germantown were presented by Miss Louise Caufman.

The Hacker Family returned to its original home, the side board that Isaiah Hacker received as a wedding present in 1803.

A patch work quilt signed by A. R. SMITH—1845 was presented by Mrs. Douglas T. Henderson.

Miss Sarah Moore presented a small china doll beautifully dressed. The doll belonged to Miss Sally J. Jungkurth. A fine framed picture of the Old Buttonwood Inn which stood on Ashmead and Germantown Avenue, is a great addition to our collection.

Through Mr. Clarence Hiorth of the American Vecturists Association we received a token from the Pocohontas Garage, 1832–38 Germantown Avenue. This is quite a rare token.

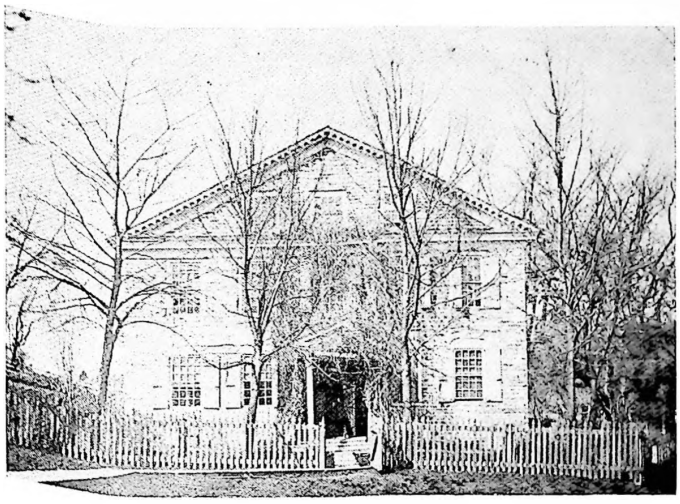
Mrs. William L. Conag presented three stained glass windows by Nicola D'Ascenzo from the old Murphy Home on Rubicam Avenue. We have nothing like these.

Mrs. Arthur Weil presented a wooden chest belonging to Capt. Calvin Gilbert, Chief of Staff during the Civil War.

The Society is greatly indebted to these donors for the fine additions to our Museum.

MARGARET B. BOSTWICK
Curator

ANOTHER INTERESTING HOME OF YESTERYEAR



The "Paul Homestead" which stood on Chew Street opposite Sharpnack Street many years ago. Abraham Paul who left Germantown in 1747 to live on a farm in Lancaster "Province" returned to Germantown in 1764 because of trouble with Indians in the Lancaster area. He purchased the Chew Street farm, complete with all buildings, except the Colonial house shown, for $5,600—he added the house in 1764. Abraham, his brother and later a nephew and the nephew's son resided in the house until 1823, when it was sold.

Our thanks to Miss Dorothea S. Paul
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Working Conditions in the "Good Old Days"

"Germantown, July 18, 1759. Ran away, on the 13th of this instant, at night, from the subscriber, of said town, an Apprentice Lad named Stophel, or Christopher Hergesheimer, about 19 years of Age, by Trade a Blacksmith, middle sized of his Age, has a sour down-looking Countenance, is of Dutch Extraction, but can talk good English; Had on and took with him, when he went away, a bluish Cloath Coat, green Nap Jacket, Snuff colored Breeches, and a Linen Jacket and Breeches, all about half wore, two pair of Oxenbrigs Trowsers, two Ditto Shirts, and one pretty fine, a Pair of old Shoes, a Pair of Thread and a Pair of Cotton Stockings, a good Athlone Felt Hat, and Yellowish Silk Handkerchief, wore his own dark brown short Hair, but may cut it off: He had a Hurt on the inside of his left Hand, not quite cured at his going away. Whoever takes him up and brings him or conveys him to his Master, or secures him in the Jail of Philadelphia, shall have Forty Shillings Reward, and reasonable charges, paid by Matthew Potter, Junior.'

Ad. in Penna. Gazette, July 19, 1759.

"Ran away from the subscriber, an apprentice boy named Jonathan Paul, by trade a blacksmith, between 19 and 20 years of age, about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, stoop shouldered, brownish hair, commonly wears it tied behind, grey eyes, pug nose, surly look, subject to very sore shins, has been lately cured, which may be easily seen, very heavy walk; took with him one dark blue cloth Coatee, one short light coating jacket, with sleeves, two undervests, one of which was olive corduroy, the other Washington's rib, olive coloured, with metal buttons on each, three pair trowsers, one paid coating almost new, one ditto olive fustian, one ditto striped cotton, two pair grey woolen ribbed stockings, two pair shoes, one pair almost new, a high crowned woolen hat, almost new, three shirts, two coarse and one fine, one calf skin apron, almost new. Whoever takes up said apprentice and brings him home or lodges him in jail in the states, shall be entitled to "five poubds reward and reasonable charges paid, by Christopher Hergesheimer. Germantown, Feb. 9."

Ad. in Dunlap & Claypooles Advertiser, Feb. 10, 1795.

James Engle, wishes to inform his friends and the public that having purchased the shop, tools and materials, late the property of Jacob Shubert, deceased, in Lombart near front street, blacksmith, proposes carrying on said business in its various branches. Having engaged as his foreman Samuel Hergesheimer (son of Mr. Hergesheimer of Germantown, so long and generally known for the neatness of his work) and who is allowed to be the equal of his father in every branch of his proffession; hooping carriage wheels, horse shoeing, house work, and edge tools, being the principal business he expects to do, tho' he flatters himself to smith anything belonging to the business that may be brought to the shop, to the satisfaction of his employer."

Ad. in Phila'd. Gazette, Feb. 17, 1794.

Dec. 9, 1795. "John Saxton, by trade a saddle-tree maker" 16 or 17 years of age ran away from Henry Sharpnack.

Ad. in Dunlap & Claypooles Advertiser, Dec. 9, 1795.

The above were copied from "Newspaper Items relating to Germantown" from Phila'd. papers 1721 to 1807. (P. H. S.—W. S. 235.)

See "The Beehive," December, 1936.

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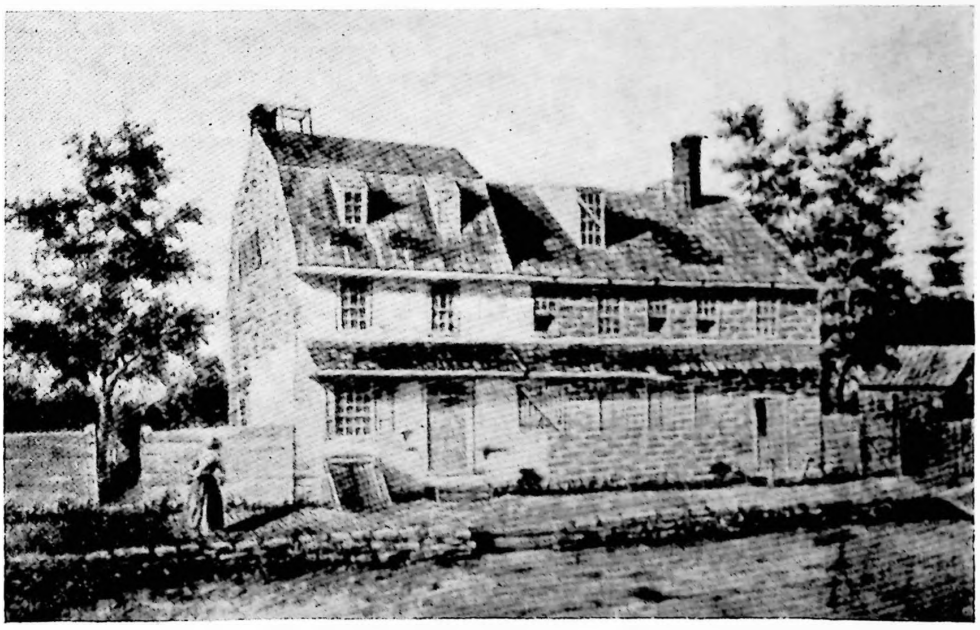
ANOTHER OLD RECEIPT BOOK

That old receipt books are of historic interest has again been demonstrated by one lately procured for the Library through the vigilance of Doctor Burgin, who discovered it among some discarded papers at the office of the Germantown Telegraph. It belonged to Major Philip R. Freas, and covers the years from 1830, when he began the publication of the Telegraph, to 1847. The greater part of his important early expenses is shown. The first number of the paper was issued on March 17, 1830. He had rented a dwelling belonging to Jacob Green—apparently from March 1st—at $9.00 per month, as on July 2d he paid $36.00 for "4 months' rent due July 1st." For the quarter falling due October 1st he paid $27.50—what the extra fifty cents was for is not stated—and $27.50 again on January 1st, 1831, for "the part of the house now occupied by him." By July 1st, 1831, John Hagey had become his landlord, with the quarter's charge only $25.00, but the next quarter showed a return to the old $27.50. In the summer of 1832 the rent had dropped to $26.25, and by July, 1834, to $25.00. This is the last entry for house rent. He probably purchased the property about that time.

Payments for "carrying" the paper appear throughout the entire book. Once—in 1831—it is spoken of as "postriding," so that both terms would seem to refer to the distributing of the paper in the outlying districts. The first carrier—starting his work on the first day of publication—was George Meley, who received $25.00 per quarter. About January, 1831, Valentine Wunder succeeded Meley at the same rate. Wunder was later the proprietor of the hotel at Germantown Road and Price Street.

Toward the end of 1831 a second carrier, George Heist, was employed at $18.75 per quarter, and in January, 1832, Wunder's wage was reduced to $19.00, which may have been unsatisfactory to him, for he ceased "carrying" about May 1st, Joseph G. Heist taking his place. This was but temporary, however, for by August of the same year Jacob Rorer had become carrier at $18.75—the same amount his co-worker, George Heist, was receiving. In February, 1833, Rorer was succeeded by George Freas. In 1834 Heist was given $20.00, but Freas did not receive the advance until 1839. Heist apparently served until 1840, the last recorded payment to him being on November 24 of that year, but Freas was still a carrier when the book closes in November, 1847. A number of other carriers were employed from time to time, invariably at $20.00 per quarter. The list includes John Keesey, 1837–1840; William Pitt, 1841; Philip Neavil, 1841; Owen Cadwallader, 1841–42; George Hay, 1842; Joseph Wilt, 1842–46; Iredell and Butler, 1844; Robert Iredell, 1847, and Charles Mulidore, 1846–47.

The paper used for printing was purchased from



Old View of "Main Street" at Chelten, before Sidewalks Were Laid

Peter Bechtel, Jr. For the first year the cost was about $50.00, for 1831 about $250.00. By 1836 the amount had increased notably—for eleven months to April 14, 1837, the bill was $344.00 and only four months later $396, both items stating "paid in full." In October, 1843, there is a receipt given by Charles Megarge for paper, $110.00.

In 1831 a "county and poor" tax of 78 cents was paid to Charles Colladay, collector, and on January 4, 1846, a "state and county" tax of $23.87, for 1845, was paid to Joseph Channon, collector.

The wage given to journeymen was usually $6.00 per week, John S. B. Cheminade, July, 1830, being the first, and H. S. Evans, July, 1833, the second one recorded. Apprentices received $25.00 a year ($6.25 quarterly), which was accepted "for clothing in lieu of that provided for in the Indenture," the payment being made to the parent or guardian. Sometimes the boy would sign the receipt as agent for his father! At the termination of the apprenticeship $30.00 was paid the boy "in lieu of a freedom suit." The first to receive this freedom money was William M. Bowen, on August 26, 1837, but not due until November 30th; the second was William Oldfield, Jr., May 22, 1838. Bowen must have been an extra good printer, for he was retained as journeyman at $7.00 per week—an unusual amount. Other apprentices mentioned were J. H. Hallowell, who attained his "freedom" January 27, 1840, and continued as journeyman at $6.00 per week. John Dettweiler, Jr., 1839 to 1846, also continued as journeyman at $6.00; David Potts, son of John Potts, 1840 to November 5, 1845, and continued at $5.00 a week; John C. Stoever, son of Eliza Stoever, 1840–45; Frederick M. Shaw, for whom John Zimmerman was guardian, 1843–47; William M. Kohl, son of Nicholas Kohl, from 1845; Jeremiah B. Larzelere, son of Nicholas Larzelere, from 1846, and Ira C. Tyson, son of William Tyson, 1847. The names of several journeymen are found who are not mentioned as apprentices, among them Charles P. Thomas, 1838–41; Adam D. Lutz, 1842; Philip H. Reitzel, 1843–44, and W. F. Smith, 1846–47. John S. Tripler, 1847, at $18.00 a month, may have been a helper.

The following receipt will be of interest to those who are now improving the Hood Cemetery: "Rec'd Aug. 7, 1833, of P. R. Freas, Three dollars and seventy-five cents in full for lot 244 in the Lower Burial Ground of Germantown.—Jacob Miller.

In September, 1833, Major Freas paid $42.00 to Harmon Osler for "anthracite coal," and in January, 1836, $16.00 to Dr. Theodore Ashmead for "attendance to family." In July, 1840, W. H. Ent received $130.00 for a Dearborn wagon.

Probably the most important of all the receipts in the book, and, too, for the largest amount, is the acknowledgment of payment for a "Hoe printing press machine," signed by Richard M. Hoe. It is for $1000.00 ($626.00 in cash and note for $374.00), is dated July 3, 1843, and of course was for one of the more primitive forms of Hoe presses, as the "lightning presses" were not patented until 1847. That the building of presses had not yet become the principal part of the Hoe business is shown by the fact that the receipt is given for the "Hoe Saw Manufactory."

In the spring and summer of 1847 Major Freas added "back buildings,"—dining room, kitchen, etc.—to his house. Michael Trumbower was the contractor and did the carpenter work, being paid $1150.00 by August, and $465.00 from August to November. In July a barn was built, for which John Tetlow furnished part of the stone and Joseph Brownholtz part. J. Wilson Parks did the hauling, and Jacob S. Provest the mason work. Norman Murray apparently painted both house and barn, his total charges being $226.00, and the date of final payment November 19, 1847. This is the last receipt in the book.

That Major Freas was "progressive" is evidenced not only by his purchase of the Hoe press, but by a receipt given September 3, 1847, by Lloyd and Feltwell on account of a "Warm Air Furnace"—doubtless for his new house.

I. P. Willits

Reprinted from "Germantown." Journal of the Site and Relic Society. No. 8—May 15, 1919.

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WHEN TYLER WAS PRESIDENT

Germantown Then Offered Plenty of Recreation for the Masses and Mental Stimulation for the More Serious Minded

GERMANTOWN, in Tyler's time, was a village,—it did not become a borough until 1847—and its inhabitants lived a typical village life, although aspiring even then to something higher and greater. Their entertainments and amusements, after the day's work was done, were in large part instructive and improving. It was t e era of Lyceums, of Debating Societies, and of "Sond of Temperance" organizations, and Germantown was moved by the spirit of the times. Halls for public gatherings were few, the principal ones being the second-story rooms of the fire-engine houses on Armat street and at Franklin street, and the new "Stokes Hall"—or "Town Hall" as the owner called it—on Church Lane where it is now the Red Men's Hall. This was opened as a hall August 17, 1843, with an address by Morton McMichael, afterwards Mayor of Philadelphia. Beginning on August 30th, a series of lectures were given in this hall on the question of the Second Advent, a very much considered subject in those days of Millerites. The churches were frequently used for lectures and for sacred concerts, and the assembly room of the Germantown Academy was available for lectures, especially of an educational character.

The Germantown —yceum was organized at a meet ing held on March 18, 1839, in the German Reformed Church with R. H. McClenachan president, Philip R. Freas secretary, and forty members enrolled, among them being Charles Bensall, Dr. Wm. N. Johnson, D. Smith English, George Hergesheimer, Naaman Keyser, John S. Littell, Robt. H. Thomas, and Charles Jones—all prominent citizens.

It gave many important lectures during the next decade, some by non-members from Philadelphia and other cities, the majority however by the members. Among these we find "National Characteristics," by Morgan Ash, Esq., of Germantown, on March 12, 1841—"Wisdom of God as shown by the Skull," by Dr. Thos. F. Betton, on January 10, 1840—"Public Spirit," by Rev. Dr. Neill," of Germantown, on February 14, 1840. These were all given in the same Market Square Church where the Society had been organized. Lectures began sometimes at 6.30, sometimes at 7 P. M., and the price of admission was usually 10 cents.

The working men of Germantown, in January, 1842, formed a society for "The Promotion of Knowledge" by lectures, reading, debates, etc., and asked the community for donations of books for a library and money to sustain it. Robert H. Thomas was elected president, who appointed John Schaffer, Samuel Johnson, Jr., and Michael Righter a committee to receive the various contributions. Before this society, November 23, 1842, the Rev. S. D. Finckel lectured on "Benjamin Franklin" in the "English Lutheran Church"—his own church at Queen Lane. No admission was charged.

In the upper part of Germantown was the Franklin Debating Society, which had been in existence since 1825. The society gave many public lectures during the years of which we are speaking, among which may be mentioned "Anatomical Relations of Man to the External World," by Dr. Thos. F. Betton, at a meeting in "Germantown" Hall on February 24, 1843; "Mental Improvement," by Rev. Mr. Bradford, March 23, 1843, in the same hall, and a second lecture by Dr. Betton, "The Inexpediency of Capital Punishment," January 24 1844, scheduled to begin at 6.30 P. M.! Possibly the Doctor had much to say on the subject and needed plenty of time, but it would seem that his remarks were not acceptable to some of the members, for on March 13, 1844, a lecture on "The Expediency of Capital Punishment" was given by James Gowen at the "request of Col. John H. Bringhurst, Capt. Henry P. Mallory, Benjamin Lehman, Philip Physick, A. Ashmead, and Frederick Emhardt. This lecture was repeated on April 10th in Stokes Hall, Germantown, and in the Chestnut Hill Union Chapel on April 11th.

Independent lectures and courses of lectures, not under the auspices of any of the societies, were at this time quite usual. As examples may be mentioned one by Morton McMichael in the Queen Lane Lutheran Church, March 26, 1841, two by Taylor on "Education" in the Germantown Academy during the first week of November, 1841, and one by Dr. Worster on "Phrenology" in Stokes Hall, March 9, 1844, to which the admission was 25 cents "admitting gentleman and lady"; one on "The French Language and System of Manesca," by J. A. Frontin, A. B., in Stokes Hall May 8, 1844, a series of lectures by Johnson on "Mnemotechny—System of Gourand" in May, 1844, which failed to attract even the knowledge-seeking Germantowners, bringing only 36 subscribers, while but 12 were present at the first lecture; and finally a lecture on "Pneumatics" in Market Square Church March 7, 1845, by Samuel Y. and E. D. Buckman, of Clermont Academy, admission to which was 12½ cents.

So much for lectures. Concerts and Church Fairs were aplenty. There was a fine oratorio concert given in Dr. Neill's church (Presbyterian) on November 30, 1841; a sacred concert in the English Lutheran Church (Queen Lane) on December 29, 1841, to which the unusually high price of 25 cents was charged for admission; the first part of Haydn's "Creation" and other music, in the Presbyterian Church "near the tollgate" (Rittenhouse street) on February 20, 1843, George Kingsley conductor—commencing at 7 P. M., admission 25 cents; and a grand vocal and instrumental concert in Germantown Hall May 13, 1843, by the "Germantown Harmonic Society"—of which F. Rasche was instructor and H. Faas piano soloist, with admission 12½ cents. Most wonderful, however, was the concert held at Germantown Hall on March 31, 1845. The programme consisted of "The Campanologians or Hand Bell Ringers, with Mr. Harrison, comic singer and instant rhymer, with his violin accompaniment, and Mr. Henry J. B. Hayes, who could sing tenor or falsetto." It is not difficult to imagine a full house!

Probably the "grandest" of all the "events" in Germantown in the early '40's was the "Dress Ball" given at Germantown Hall in Franklinville on February 20, 1845, by the "Native Americans" of the Lower Ward, the proceeds to be used to establish a brass band for the Native Americans. This political party, started in New York about ten years earlier, had ably was more or less responsible for the riots of 1844. Its adherents in Germantown were enthusiastic, and the "Dress Ball" was evidence of this enthusiasm. The floor managers were Wm. Stadelman, Wm. Pownell and Gideon D. Harmer, the general managers were Chas. Miller, Wm. Young, Daniel Stroup, Peter Schriver, Albert Collom, Joseph Schriver, Robt. Hilt, John J. Crout, John Hesser, Daniel Culp, Valentine Book, John Gorwell, Alexander Shinkle and Hiram Butcher. To assure the dressiness of the Ball this committee placed on the advertising notices—"Hats and Caps not permitted in the ball room!"

Verily, Germantown in Tyler's time, offered freely both recreation for the masses and mental stimulation for the more serious minded.

The above article is reprinted from "The Beehive"—Dec. 1936.

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A CORRECTION

"Wild Life of the Wissahickon" Summer, 1972 edition

Mrs. E. Florens Rivinus, a member of our Society, has graciously written to the "Crier" expressing "the greatest interest" in the article "Wild Life of the Wissahickon" in the Summer, 1972 issue. She writes further, "As a Wissahickon enthusiast I should like to suggest a correction."

"The name Wissahickon was derived from a combination of two Indian words, Wissauchsickan meaning yellow colored stream and Wisamickan meaning catfish stream. James Logan's encounter with an Indian was with a man named Wingohocken, and when the Indian suggested exchanging names as a token of friendship, Logan tactfully replied that man was only mortal, but the stream that ran through his place at 'Stenton' would continue forever and it would be better to give his name to that. This stream still exists, although covered by concrete, in the Park which has been made from the Logan property. The Indian took the name of Logan and was rewarded for his friendship by having his whole family murdered by white men.

"Wingohocken Station on the Chestnut Hill branch of the Reading railroad is named after him and the stream."

MARION W. RIVINUS
Co-editor of the Guide to the Wissahickon

Thank you Mrs. Rivinus.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 19, 1972—8:00 P.M.

Parish Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church, Queen Lane and Germantown Avenue.

Speaker: Professor Michael Brooks.

Subject: "John Ruskin and his Influence on English and American architecture."

Thursday, November 16, 1972

Parish Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church, Queen Lane and Germantown Avenue.

Speaker: Dr. Hobart Cawood, Director, Independence National Park.

Regular notice will be sent members giving further details.

Thursday, January 18, 1973 .. Place of Meeting,
Thursday, February 15, 1973.. Speaker, Subject,
Thursday, March 15, 1973 .. etc., to be
Thursday, April 19, 1973 .. announced.

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CARRIAGE MANUFACTURING

Carriage manufacturing at one time was an important industry in Germantown, at least a dozen firms being engaged in it at one time. Most of the factories were below School Street. There were the Bringhursts, the Ashmeads, Frys, Somers, and Jungkurths. The trade of our local carriage makers extended over the Eastern and Middle States. The work was well made, good and strong, and lasted for years. The first person in Germantown to use a "rig" that compared in any way to the modern carriage was Benjamin Chew. It was somewhat after the style of the present hotel cab, but much heavier and clumsier, being drawn by four horses. Chris. Jungkurth, whose factory was where Kelly's now stands, was the first builder of the famous Germantown carriage. Before that time carriage riding was confined to a cart, and on extra occasions, some one quite wealthy would drive a gig. Germantown in years gone by was a famous resort for wealthy Southerners, who came here in the summer, and when they made their departure in the fall Chris. always had ten or fifteen of his carriages going South, either for the sojourners or their friends. When they returned the following season, a number of orders were given for more Germantown carriages. Chris. was always busy, was a good workman, and he made money in his business.

Reprinted from "Germanopolis" souvenir book—225th anniversary of first permanent German settlement, October 6, 1908.



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GERMANTOWN ESCAPES CHOLERA'S RAVAGES

An epidemic of Asiatic cholera swept the Atlantic Coast in 1832. A pest house was erected in August at the Germantown Almshouse, on West Rittenhouse Street, and another in lower Germantown. Three patients, all from the same boarding house, were admitted to the latter early in September, and all died. Only a few patients received treatment at the Almshouse, and by October 1 all danger from the epidemic was past.

Then, as at the time of the yellow fever epidemics of the preceding century, Germantown was renowned for its healthfulness. In August of 1832 the Telegraph reported that between 500 and 600 persons from elsewhere were boarding in Germantown for the summer. One factor in bringing so many visitors to Germantown at that time was the opening of the railroad from Philadelphia to Germantown in June, 1832.

From book "Germantown 1683–1933" by Edward W. Hocker, who was Librarian of the Germantown Historical Society.

The Oldest Tombstone in Germantown and How It Was Found

In 1918, when the reorganization of the Board of Trustees of Hoods Cemetery Company was effected and the work of restoration commenced, efforts were made to find the gravestone of Joseph Coulston, said to be the oldest in Germantown. It was supposed to have been buried with a lot of broken and mutilated stones. Mr. Albanus Logan informed the committee having the matter in charge, that he understood it had been kept in the old toolhouse. Formerly there was a wooden toolhouse near the side gate, the predecessor of the present brick tool house. All efforts to find the stone failed, although all known places of buried stones were dug into and the old wooden floor of the toolhouse removed and replaced by concrete.

March 15, 1919, the committee published the names of thirty-eight lot holders in the Germantown Guide. This list was taken from the chart of 1876. It was there stated that the committee desired to meet any named in the list, or their descendants to arrange for the care of their lots, resetting of stones, removing rails and cutting off corner posts, etc.

Among the names on the list was that of George Apple. Mrs. Robert Hales, a granddaughter, then living in Collingswood, N. J., saw the name of her grandfather on the list, and with her sister, Miss Elizabeth Myrtitus, called on the committee stating that they had difficulty in getting things done satisfactorily, and that the sexton changed the lock on the front gate nearly every year, necessitating the purchase of a new key, and that they had given up in disgust efforts to keep the lot in order. (It is the purpose of the present administration of the Cemetery to keep the front gate unlocked, and the Cemetery accessible to lot holders and visitors, as long as this privilege is not abused.)

Mrs. Hales and her sister were advised to remove the rails, cut off the corner posts, and to lower the heavy headstones which were in three sections and very high, and had blown over against the railing which prevented them from falling to the ground and breaking.

The ladies readily agreed to have the work done as suggested by the committee. When the workmen removed the foundations of the stones to carry out these suggestions, they found under one stone half of an old tombstone, and under another, the second half. The two halves cleaned and brought together contained the following inscription:—

> "Here lyeth the body of Samuel, son of Joseph and Margaret Coulson, who died Oct. the 28, 1707, aged 9 weeks."

This was a veritable find, as the long sought-for, stone of Joseph Coulson was dated February 1707–8, and was supposed to be the oldest stone in Germantown. (The oldest stone in the Upper Burying Ground is to Cornelius Tison, 1716.) At the time of these burials England and her colonies reckoned their time from the first of March, the year beginning with March. Little Samuel died October, 1707, so Samuel died before his father, and in this find we have the oldest gravestone in Germantown.

The two pieces of the stone were fastened together, a concrete base added, and it was then placed in its original position in the grave yard, an old resident having pointed out the place. It is near the front, to the left of the main entrance.

Efforts are being made to raise enough money at the annual Coulson reunion to purchase a new stone for Joseph Coulson, containing the original inscription, and also to endow the lot for perpetual care.

NAAMAN H. KEYSER.

Copied from "Germantown," Journal of Site & Relic Society—Oct. 21, 1921.

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"Germantown Stage—Notice is hereby given, That the Subscriber (having a convenient four wheel carriage, with a good Awning) proposes to carry Goods and passengers from Germantown to Philadelphia,



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—Pennsylvania Gazette
April 2, 1761

The King of Prussia Inn, which Jacob Coleman conducted, was on the west side of Germantown Avenue, north of School lane.

From "Newspaper Items Relating to Germantown" Vol. II, No. 4 Germantown Historical Society—1934.

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